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Islamic Affairs

Muslim World League Urges Pilgrims To Be Peaceful

LD2905131093 Riyadh SPA in English 1244 GMT 29 May 93

Mecca, May 29, SPA—On the occasion of tarwiya day (watering day), which falls today, Dr. 'Abdallah 'Umar Nasif, the secretary general of the Muslim World League, has urged the pilgrims to head for 'Arafat tomorrow in an atmosphere of submissiveness and peacefulness and to learn a good lesson from the farewell pilgrimage performed by the prophet (peace be upon him). The Muslim nation is in a bad need, in these critical circumstances, to return their hearts to the almighty God. Dr. al-Nasif warned against disunity and differences and said lack of unity and solidarity will encourage our enemies to attack the Muslims. "More than 14 centuries ago, our prophet, peace be upon him, has warned against disunity and differences," he said. "We should follow the teachings of Islam and close our ranks and avoid seditious acts and wars. I pray to the God to accept the pilgrimage of the pilgrims and guide us to the proper direction."

Palestinian Affairs

'Minidelegation' Said To Visit Washington 7 Jun

TA0106165793 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 31 May 93 p 2

["Exclusive" to AL-QUDS]

[Excerpts] Cairo, Damascus—Informed sources in Cairo have said that Egypt has proposed a Palestinian-Israeli meeting with the participation of the United States and Egypt in a bid to reach agreement on the final draft of a declaration of principles and a plan for Palestinian self-rule before the start of the 10th round of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks expected to be held in the middle of June.

The Egyptian proposal coincided with a European effort to convene a Palestinian-Israeli summit between President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This was revealed by Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky to the Palestinian president during his recent visit to Austria. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources in Amman have stated that a Palestinian minidelegation will travel to Washington on 7 June to hold talks with the aim of narrowing the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions.

According to these sources, the delegation will consist of Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi. Furthermore, the sources said that the Palestinians welcomed these talks with U.S. Administration officials.

For his part, Faysal al-Husayni has announced the Palestinian delegation's acceptance of the U.S. invitation to a Palestinian minidelegation to visit Washington in the next few days to continue talks on a joint Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles.

The Palestinian sources affirmed that these talks will be held between the Palestinians and the Americans only. During the talks, the Palestinians will demand a document of principles stipulating in detail Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem and setting a timetable for this withdrawal. This has been one of the PLO's main demands. [passage omitted]

Responsible Syrian sources have said in Damascus that the United States has informed Syria through diplomatic channels that it will issue an invitation to the Arab states concerned in the peace talks to resume the 10th round. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi, 'Urayqat To Attend 6 Jun Amman Meeting

TA0106171493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Members of the Palestinian side to the peace talks are conducting intensive consultations and contacts on the eve of the Arab states' foreign ministers meeting in Amman on 6 June. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side, and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat are expected to leave for the Jordanian capital to participate in this meeting.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem has learned that Faysal al- Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the peace talks, will leave at the end of this week for the United Arab Emirates to confer with government officials there on providing financial aid to the territories' residents.

Paper on 'U.S. Retreats' From Terms of Reference

TA0106191593 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 30 May 93 p 11

[Editorial: "The Sequence of U.S. Retreats"]

[Text] The United States played the major role in the resumption of the peace talks in the phase preceding the ninth round. It grasped all the Arab and international threads and pressured the Palestinians with every means to make possible the talks' resumption. This is what actually happened despite the fact that the ninth round's results—as is common knowledge—were disappointing.

Now, Palestinian sources are stressing that the features of the U.S. role, described by Washington at the highest levels as that of full partner, are becoming clear in terms of bias toward Israel and renewed pressure on the Palestinians to accept the general outlines of the Israeli working paper.

Surprisingly, the sequence of U.S. retreats, in which Washington's stance on Security Council Resolution 799 calling for the immediate and complete repatriation of all the deportees was one of the most prominent links, is continuing with the U.S. call this time to back down from the frameworks of the peace talks's terms of reference. The frameworks were devised in Washington itself by former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

International circumstances at the time, stemming basically from the Gulf War, were the elements of pressure that prompted the Palestinian side to accept those terms of reference frameworks, which were much less than the inalienable Palestinian conditions for a peaceful settlement. The Palestinians and Arabs aspired to work from within the framework of negotiations to develop the terms of reference, in parallel with progress in the peace process, to reach the limit traditionally acceptable to the Palestinian side.

From this premise, U.S.-Israeli excesses in continuing to breach Palestinian demands on the terms of reference will not only fail to lead to any progress in the peace process, but rather threaten to derail or terminate that process. This is because the process is no longer moving toward peace but toward Israeli interests alone, without taking into consideration the Palestinians' legitimate human and political rights.

Is this what the United States is seeking?

PLO's Hurani: Libyan Pilgrims' Visit 'Unjustified'

JN0106133493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Report by Muhammad Kurayshan from Tunis]

[Text] The PLO has not yet issued any official reaction to yesterday's visit by Libyan pilgrims' to occupied Jerusalem. In general, however, Palestinian leaders here in Tunis have a very bad impression of the visit. Palestinian leaders believe the Libyan initiative sets a serious precedent that merits denunciation.

In a statement to our radio, PLO Executive Committee 'Abdallah Hurani said the Libyan initiative will draw only strong Palestinian surprise. He said the visit, which he called unjustified, will open the door to normalization. This, he said, is not required of Libya. Libya, he said, is not compelled to do this.

Hurani asked: If the air blockade which prevented Libyans from heading for Mecca to perform the pilgrimage can justify what has been done by Libya—which, he said, has always proclaimed the slogans of Arab unity, pan-Arabism, and the liberation of Palestine—how can Libya do such a thing while Jerusalem is still occupied and under siege?

The PLO Executive Committee member recalled the decision of Pope Shinudah in Egypt that prevents Egyptian Christians from visiting Jerusalem as long as it remains under Israeli occupation. He said Islamic circles and the Egyptian Government were enthusiastic about adopting the same approach.

Hurani recalled the position of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who was angered by the proposal of the papal envoy he met in Baghdad recently. The envoy asked Saddam to improve relations with Israel in order to pave the way for lifting the blockade of his country. Hurani asked: How can Libya, which is not suffering from the blockade like Iraq, do such a thing?

Hamas Denounces Libyan Pilgrims' Jerusalem Visit

JN0206055393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas has issued a strongly worded statement against the Libyan pilgrims visit to Jerusalem. Hamas said that this Libyan step is a recognition of the occupier enemy and of its right to control Islamic holy places.

Hamas added: The timing of the visit is questionable as this step has come while the sons of the Palestinian people are banned from visiting Jerusalem and al-Aqsa Mosque.

Hamas concluded: Such steps, which are taken to placate the U.S. Administration and the Israeli government, will only increase the arrogance of these two parties.

Fatah Hawks Leader Reportedly Escapes to Egypt

NC0206074393 Paris AFP in English 0710 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, June 2 (AFP)—The leader of the Fatah Hawks, an armed wing of the PLO, escaped overnight to Egypt from the occupied Gaza Strip with two comrades, Palestinian sources said Wednesday.

Mahmud Husayn, 26, from Rafah refugee camp, which borders Egypt, was one of the most wanted Palestinians in the territories, the sources said.

He was military commander on the Strip of the Hawks which, according to the army, carries out most of the attacks on Israeli targets.

Fatah is the main group of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Three other Fatah Hawk activists fled to Egypt last Wednesday, Palestinian sources said, adding that wanted militants are increasingly opting to cross the border to escape an Israeli crackdown.

Troops have killed 41 Palestinians and captured dozens of wanted men since the occupied territories were sealed off at the end of March.

Gulf 'Financial Siege' Against PLO Called 'Crime'

JN0206083293 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Jun 93

["Talk of the Intifadah" feature]

[Text] Brothers: Palestinians all over the homeland and in the diaspora are united in their allegiance to their homeland, the most ancient spot in the saga of mankind. For them, the notion of freedom has been identified with rallying around the PLO, leader of Palestinian national struggle against the Zionist occupation.

In the homeland, the idea of an independent, struggling Palestine has taken the shape of the intifadah of the Palestinian people and their historic action in the face of the most brutal occupation ever—an occupation aimed at decimating one of the most ancient peoples in the region.

In the course of this long struggle with the Zionist occupiers, those occupiers have tried to take hold of the Palestinian body by killings and arrests. They have also attempted to confiscate our people's right to liberation and independence, and cancel the role of the Palestinian people in the equation of the conflict.

The Palestinian people are no longer hostage to any defective policy by the Zionist occupation or to some Arab policies. The intifadah has turned Palestine into moving [word indistinct] and turned the notion of its independence into a political reality seen by the intifadah people everyday as a geographical reality in its cities, villages, camps all over our occupied land.

When this reality seemed near realization, the Zionist crime became more rabid and killers increased in number, assuming different names. The Palestinians are aware that their killers have many names. The one who besieges the Palestinians in their homeland, practices terrorism, arrests them, demolishes their homes, is the Zionist killer. The ones who starve the Palestinians in the occupied territories and besiege them financially from among the regimes of the cloaks [reference to Arab Gulf rulers] are also killers. The financial siege imposed on the PLO and the Palestinian people is indeed a crime.

O Palestinians everywhere. O brothers and friends who share the Palestinians' aspirations for liberation and independence, renouncing crime and racism, and seeking to identify all killers: Observe with us, our people and friends, how whenever the Palestinian notions of sacrifice, freedom, the independent state, and the liberation of Jerusalem from the filth of occupation make progress toward achieving the objectives of the intifadah people, some Arabs of the regimes of the cloaks commit one crime after another against the Palestinian people and their unified leadership, the PLO. They also commit another crime, namely, the financial siege. We know that the regimes of the cloaks are the most sickening phenomena in our Palestinian and Arab life. Perhaps the danger of this lies in the fact that they are bowing to the Zionist dictum that a good Arab is a dead Arab. Their sense of dignity, chivalry, and brotherhood toward their fellow Palestinians and other Arabs is dead. The regimes of the cloaks are fighting Palestinians by way of their financial siege, which shows great indifference on their part.

This is happening because the Palestinians have fought the longest war of steadfastness in the modern Arab history, the great steadfastness in Beirut. For six years now, the Palestinians have been fighting the greatest epic ever to liberate their country, Palestine, through their glorious intifadah. Just like the children of the intifadah are taking revenge through their great intifadah against the Zionist occupation, the Arabs of the cloaks will find one or several Arab generations that will take revenge against their entities and practices against their people and against the Palestinian people, the guardians of the holy places in Palestine and protectors of Jerusalem and the al-Aqsa Mosque.

'Arafat Receives Indian State Minister

LD2805195893 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpts] Brother Chairman Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received His Excellency Mr. Bhatia, India's minister of state for external affairs and an accompanying delegation, who conveyed an important letter from His Excellency, India's prime minister, on India's stand of support to the Palestinian cause. The Indian minister stressed that India's stand is constant toward the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's rights, and the establishment of its independent state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of the PLO.

Brother 'Abu Ammar reviewed the negotiations process, in particular the ninth round, and the difficulties and obstacles it faced and the promises the U.S. Government failed to fulfil. He also reviewed the situation in the occupied territories and the tragic situation facing our Palestinian people due to the continued siege, closure, the policy of starvation, killing and pursuit, and the isolation of the city of Jerusalem, warning that the continuation of this situation is liable to lead to exacerbating the situation and threatening the peace process.

They also discussed issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

The official visit follows the visit by Israel's foreign minister to India, and is made so as to inform the Palestinian leadership about the details of the visit and to state that any progress in Indian-Israeli relations is linked to progress in the peace process and the attainment by the Palestinian people of their inalienable national, political and legitimate rights.

'Arafat Talks With Mozambique's Chissano

LD3005190293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday met President Joaquim Alberto Chissano of the Republic of Mozambique. During the meeting the president of Mozambique reaffirmed his support for the just struggle being waged by the Palestinian people in order to restore and exercise their national legitimate and inalienable rights and to establish their independent Palestinian state whose capital is Holy Jerusalem. The president of Mozambique also expressed his appreciation for the leading role being played by the PLO under the chairmanship of Brother Abu-'Ammar in directing the Middle East peace process despite the difficulties and obstacles confronting this process.

The brother president Abu-'Ammar thanked the president of Mozambique for the support given by Mozambique—president, government, and people—for the struggle of the Palestinian people and their just cause. He expressed the hoped that Mozambique will achieve progress and prosperity during the national reconciliation phase which is now being witnessed by Mozambique following the signing of the general peace accord which has provided an opportunity for a real national reconciliation which will enable the people of Mozambique to make progress in the building and reconstruction process.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar also reviewed during the meeting the Middle East peace process and the ninth round of bilateral negotiations, which did not make any worthwhile progress as a result of Israeli intransigence and persistence in ignoring the point of reference of the negotiations, the letters of invitation, and the guarantees. Brother President Abu-'Ammar reviewed the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian territories resulting from the continuation of the Israeli occupation in excercising the policy of hunger, killing, and persecution, in addition to isolating the city of Jerusalem from the rest of the occupied territories.

The meeting also discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest between Palestine and Mozambique. Agreement was reached regarding the accredition of the ambassador of the Republic of Mozambique to France and Tunisia as ambassador acredited to the state of Palestine. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by brother Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, brother Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Central Committee of Fatah and ambassador of the state of Palestine to Tunisia, and Dr. Sami Musallam, head of the office of Brother Abu-'Ammar; and on the Mozambique side by Mr. Pascoal Mocumbi, foreign minister of Mozambique and diplomatic advisor to the president of Mozambique; the head of the office of the president of Mozambique; and the Mozambique Ambassador to Tunis and Paris.

Egypt

Editor on 'Mistake' in Reporting Mubarak Remarks

NC0106122893 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 30 May 93 pp 1, 3

[Article by Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari: "The Story of 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman; Correcting a Mistake; Comments by Writers, Not Remarks by the President"]

[Excerpts] To begin with, and before we go into the files and details of the U.S. media clamor over a report appearing in Thursday's [27 May] issue of AL-JUMHURIYAH about President Mubarak's meeting with Egyptian writers, intellectuals, and newspaper chief editors, I would like to emphasize that there was a mistake and a mix up. Comments, analyses, and information offered by my colleagues on the relationship between U.S. intelligence and Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman and on the visa issued to him to enter the United States were attributed to the president. The fact is, however, that those were remarks the writers put to the president. They were citing the U.S. media and inquiring about Egyptian-U.S. relations.

The president emphasized that relations are strong and firm at all levels. He pointed to his recent meeting with President Clinton and his administration officials, praising the outcome of the meeting.

After this clarification, we wonder what all this "American" clamor is about Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman!

Does it really make a big difference whether he is:

—A professional Central Intelligence Agency agent;

—A "free lance!" collaborator paid for the services he renders;

—"Merely an amateur" in the market of "secret activity," the games of conspiracies, disturbances, and coups—"an amateur" in the nations game and its relations with the big states;

—Or if he is innocent of all these accusations and suspicions, and that the issue is nothing more than a deliberate attempt by the United States or its agencies to win the shaykh's "blessings," give the impression that he is "their man," and that the religious or "political agitation" in his rhetoric is one thing, while facts, realities, and relations are something else?

In fact, we do not care much about the shaykh.

It was not Egypt that expelled him from the country.

Egypt did not seek to obtain two authentic visas for him, one from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, and the other from the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum.

It was not Egypt that organized a warm welcome for him and secured a shelter for him when he came as a guest—and later became "a half citizen" as he obtained the so-called green card—of the United States.

It was not the Egyptian media that turned the issue into something like a media battle. [passage omitted]

Anyway, we now go back to our subject—the current clamor over Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, and whether he is a U.S. intelligence agent.

The clamor was caused by a report—which I wrote—about President Mubarak's meeting with writers, intellectuals, and chief editors, appearing in the 27 May issue of AL-JUMHURIYAH.

The report touched on Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman; his relationship with the United States, specifically the CIA; why the United States is eager to host him and offer him all this hospitality; and whether this situation, coupled with the "media polish," is a sign of tension or lukewarm relations between Egypt and the United States.

The question was first posed by our friend Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad. It was followed by queries and remarks by the other colleagues attending the meeting.

The president began to explain, analyze, compare, and offer information, and at times he put forth rhetorical questions.

The fact is that the meet was interesting, and the dialogue and discussions were open and frank without any restrictions. [passage omitted]

Mahmud Murad repeated his question several times, searching for the truth about Egyptian-U.S. relations.

President Mubarak stressed that relations are strong and firm, and that a major understanding was achieved between him and U.S. President Bill Clinton during his latest visit to Washington.

Discussing Egypt and the world, President Mubarak explained his philosophy, concepts, and regional and international policy. [passage omitted]

But the colleagues wanted to come closer to the shaykh, his status, and his relationship with the United States.

Mubarak explained that he did not care much about the shaykh, his relationships, or his activity. He said he did not care if the shaykh stays in the United States or leaves it.

He was not angry that the shaykh remained in the United States, and he did not request his extradition.

The golden rule governing relations between friendly countries is that hostile or terrorist activities should not be allowed, financed, or organized by the "rancorous" forces that practice extremist opposition against Egypt or other countries.

The colleagues put to the president excerpts from articles and comments by U.S. and other foreign media about 'Abd-al-Rahman's relationship with the CIA, focusing on a report appearing in THE NEW YORK TIMES in April. The report explained that this relationship began in the early 80's, when the Afghan war broke out, and that the shaykh, in coordination with the CIA and with its financing, was recruiting Egyptians to fight in Afghanistan .

The colleagues offered many other stories and articles about this relationship.

The president did not wish to delve into the details of these press reports. He was content with stressing his principle of establishing good relations with all world nations, including the United States, and eagerness for noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries.

But for the sake of the truth, we must admit that there was a mistake and a mix up in AL-JUMHURIYAH's report on the meeting.

There was a mix up between what the president said, and what the colleagues offered, especially concerning the links between the shaykh and the CIA.

References to those links were made by the colleagues, who were looking for the truth. They were citing the U.S. media themselves. The references were not made by the president as he explained his philosophy about international relations. [passage omitted]

Al-Baz Returns From U.S. Following Talks

NC0106205593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo tonight following a 10-day visit to the United States, during which he held talks with senior U.S. officials. The talks focused on the way to promote the peace efforts, overcome the obstacles facing the peace talks, and promote bilateral relations. Al-Baz will present a report to President Husni Mubarak on the outcome of the talks.

Failure To Retrieve 'Arab Afghans' Explained

NC0106202093 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 31 May 93 pp 12, 13

[Report by Hamdi Rizq]

[Text] An Egyptian security delegation that had traveled to Pakistan to take delivery of around 70 leading extremists residing there failed in its mission and returned to Egypt in total secrecy. The delegation had gone to Islamabad on the strength of an agreement with former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that was followed by contacts between former Egyptian and Pakistani Interior Ministers 'Abd-al-Halim Musa and Chaudhary Shujat Hussain.

Certain sources have informed ROSE AL-YUSUF that the new Pakistani interior minister refused to receive the Egyptian delegation, saying that the new government "will examine the issue in light of new developments in Pakistan."

The sources said that the delegation's failure to achieve its mission did not result merely from the new Pakistani Government's attitude but was also connected with a U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) team that visited Pakistan twice with an objective similar to that of the Egyptian delegation. Pakistan complied with the U.S. requests and gave the team all possible facilities, while its interior minister refused to meet with the Egyptian delegation. The failure of the Egyptian delegation's mission can also be ascribed to the need to hold new contacts with the new Pakistani Government. This was not possible because Pakistan was in the grip of a cabinet crisis when the Egyptian delegation reached the country.

Thus misfortune and the fact that the Egyptian mission coincided with a similar U.S. mission prevented the implementation of the agreement that had been reached with Nawaz Sharif. Another no less important reason was behind the Egyptian failure. Since it began thinking of expelling the Arab Afghans, the Pakistani Government has been coming under great pressure from the Islamic Coordination Council, which represents the Arab relief organizations operating in the Pakistani border area. These number 16 organizations and bureaus out of a total of 136 operating in the area. The pressure reached the point where Zahid al-Shaykh, an Afghan relief official, met Golzar Khan, the Pakistani interior ministry's secretary [name and title as published], and demanded an end to the deportations, threatening to halt relief funds (which totaled $215 million during the years of Afghanistan's fight for liberation from Soviet occupation).

At the same time, Arab extremists in Afghanistan exercised tremendous pressure on the Pakistani Government. Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, official spokesman of the Islamic Group in Pakistan, threatened to attack Pakistani and Western targets everywhere in the country. Indeed the group's leader in Pakistan Qadi Husayn Ahmad personally led a demonstration to halt the arrests and deportations begun by Nawaz Sharif's government before its departure. The detainees' wives issued an appeal, referring to themselves as the "Arab women," calling for their husbands' release. They threatened to take up arms and carry out violent acts on Pakistani territory.

Afghanistan then pressured Pakistan. A delegation from Kabul, led by President Borhanoddin Rabbani, arrived in Pakistan and urged the Pakistani Government to release the detainees promptly. The delegation threatened to sever relations with Pakistan if it insisted on expelling the "Arab mujahidin."

Why has Pakistan responded and facilitated the U.S. security team's mission while obstructing the task of the Egyptian security delegation, which visited Pakistan for the same purpose? The U.S. team, which was dispatched by the FBI, visited Pakistan twice in May to investigate whether the Afghans, who are detained in Pakistani prisons, were involved in the explosion that rocked the World Trade Center in New York.

According to international news agencies, the U.S. team was accorded a warm welcome in Islamabad. The team met with the Afghan prisoners and interrogated some 300 Arab extremists about a terrorist network that is financed by drug smuggling in Peshawar and nearby mountainous regions. The U.S. authorities asked Pakistan to hand over the extremists to stand trial like former Panamanian President Noriega. The United States gave Pakistan $3.5 million to finance its efforts in wiping out the terrorist network and resolving the problem of the Afghan Arabs who reside illegally on its territory. It was recently announced that the Pakistani authorities will deliver the wanted extremists to the United States immediately upon their arrest.

Why then did the same thing not happen with the Egyptian security delegation, which represented three official departments and visited at the invitation of Pakistan's former interior minister? Why is Pakistan's stand on Egypt different?

First, there is no extradition agreement between Egypt and Pakistan. It was agreed that the handover will take place through extremely private channels and through the former interior minister. The interior minister had even expressed his readiness to visit Cairo and personally hand over the files of the Egyptian extremists to the security authorities in Egypt.

Second—and this is the most important—the Pakistani Government submitted to U.S. pressure after the United States hinted at placing Pakistan on the list of countries sponsoring international terrorism. Pakistan had to respond to the U.S. request without any hesitation.

The Pakistanis rescinded their promises and expressed readiness only to allow the Egyptian delegation to see the photographs and lists of the extremists detained in the Pakistani prisons. They submitted a list containing the names of 1,000 extremists, whose return to Egypt will not be of any importance to Egyptian security. The delegation basically visited Pakistan to receive the leading extremists.

At the same time, the Pakistani authorities asked the Arab extremists, including the Egyptians, to leave Pakistan for any destinations they wanted. It was natural for them not to opt for Egypt. All but two opted for Sudan: Al-Sa'id Muhammad Hasan and Ahmad Hasan Shihatah, who chose Egypt and are now under interrogation.

Third, during its stay in Pakistan the Egyptian delegation was surprised by reports leaked by the security officials there that 11 extremists were handed over to Egypt. It was later disclosed that the reports were not true and that those arrested had entered Egypt via al-Sallum border post in accordance with a security agreement between Egypt and Libya.

What is more surprising is that a number of the wanted extremists had left Pakistan while the Egyptian delegation was there. These included Tal'at 'Abduh Qasim, who left for Denmark. He had been sentenced to seven years in prison in the case of the assassination of late President Anwar al-Sadat and also sentenced to death in the case of the "Afghan Revolutionaries;" Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Musa, from the al-Jihad leadership, flew to New York; and Ayman al- Zawahiri and Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli moved to Jalalabad inside the Afghan borders.

Some observers believe that there is no hope so long as the Mazari government is still in power. Egypt decided to sever all kinds of telecommunications with Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Sudan, and Iraq to cut off communications between the extremists at home and their associates in these countries.

Muslim Brotherhood-Labor Party Links Viewed

NC0206081593 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 31 May 93 pp 9-11

[Report by Ibrahim Khalil, 'Abdallah Kamal, and Usamah Salamah: "Have the Muslim Brothers Taken Over the Labor Party?"]

[Excerpt] Ibrahim Shukri was addressing the recent Labor Party general congress when applause signalled the arrival of 'Adil Husayn, who mobilized his followers at the congress in preparation for the change that was about to occur.

The change [in the Labor Party] coincided with various developments in which the government, the Labor Party, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Liberal Party, and Islamist groups played varying roles over the past two months.

The government opened unofficial contacts with Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Labor Party, to discover his intentions. Ibrahim Shukri was overjoyed with these contacts because they ended his party's estrangement after it sided with Baghdad in the Gulf war. During the contacts, Shukri allegedly hinted that the Labor Party would gradually abandon the Muslim Brotherhood.

Labor Party Secretary 'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat contacted the party's committees in the governorates, instructing local leaders to block the election of Muslim brothers to the general congress.

Mustafa Mashhur, Muslim Brotherhood deputy general guide, said the alliance between the Labor Party and the Brotherhood was based on general principles regarding cooperation in the legislative and local elections. Elsewhere, he added, the two sides maintain their separate entities. Mashhur said: We will not merge with the Labor Party, because it has its own history and we cannot be among its leaders.

The Muslim brothers know they have failed miserably in one aspect. Extremist groups do not want to play second fiddle to the Brotherhood for several reasons. These groups see the failure of Brotherhood lawyer Mukhtar Nuh to present a serious defense on behalf of defendants in extremist trials as a way of flirting with the government.

Two years ago, the extremist groups invited the Brotherhood to form a united front with them, but the Brotherhood declined.

The differences between the extremist groups and the Brotherhood have not developed into a conflict. The two sides have an implicit agreement not to exchange verbal abuse. Remarkably, the Brotherhood has refrained from assailing extremist leaders. Secret contacts between the two sides continue.

A year ago, a dispute surfaced between the extremists and the brothers in Dayrut. "Arbitration" took place and the Brotherhood promised to pay "blood money" to the family of a man from the extremist groups who was killed during a struggle to control a mosque. It failed to keep the promise.

The same source told ROSE AL-YUSUF a few days ago that there is a general agreement [among extremists] not to deal with the Brotherhood, because it "appeases" the government, as he put it.

But members of the Brotherhood, a group banned since 1954, maneuvered in more than one direction. While changes in the Labor Party were about to be completed, Brotherhood members turned toward a distant point: the Liberal Party.

From among 13 newspapers owned by the Liberal Party, the Brotherhood members chose a weak daily newspaper that published legal announcements and some advertisements. They recommended to party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad that the party hire the license to publish the weekly edition, according to the proposal made by Guidance Bureau member Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam and Mustafa Mashhur, deputy general guide of the banned group.

Under the agreement, according to information from the Liberal Party, the Brotherhood paid 1,000 Egyptian pounds for each edition, and Mustafa Murad requested that the sum to be increased to 10,000 pounds a month if the paper's circulation rose to 200,000 copies. But [Muslim Brotherhood spokesman] Ma'mun al-Hudaybi said: We did not hire anything, but were merely publishing the newspaper. Mustafa Murad obtained the profits as a "businessman."

But Mustafa Murad covered everything that happened with huge political slogans. He said in a statement a few days ago: Our policy is to allow all political forces to express their inclinations and views, because, as we said, we are democratic. But he swallowed these words last week. As they were presenting the last four pages of the latest edition, Brotherhood members were surprised by remarks by photographic section workers, who said: "Mustafa Bey said that this edition will published late for some time." This meant the deal was over.

At this point, the government was banking on the huge success it would achieve after the deal was over. For six weeks it silently watched the Muslim Brotherhood's deception regarding the legal ban, especially because the newspaper was preparing to announce the establishment of a party. But Ma'mun al-Hudaybi said: "We have studied founding a party, but these efforts will all end up in a deadlock because they eventually will be examined by a department in the administrative judiciary, the rulings of which are final. We will not announce the party by force. This is so we will not suddenly find ourselves standing accused before a military court.

Meanwhile, matters took a different turn in the Labor Party. As government circles followed up the instructions of the Labor Party to its local leaders to block the nomination of Muslim Brotherhood members to the party's Executive Committee, the Labor Party's general congress was busy amending the party's bylaws as follows:

First, the General Congress will be held every four years instead of two.

Second, the Executive Committee was expanded to include 45 members instead of 30.

Third, a new body called the Executive Bureau was created, entrusted with managing the party's day-to-day organizational affairs, and placed under the supervision of the secretary general.

Fourth, the party leader's term was set at four years.

Fifth and last, Executive Committee members were permitted to occupy more than one organizational position.

According to this last amendment, the party's secretaries at the governorate levels, most of whom are Brotherhood members, became eligible for membership in the Executive Committee as well as for party leadership.

Last week—only days after the general congress was held—the new party formation was announced:

Dr. Hilmi Murad became deputy party leader, 'Adil Husayn became party secretary general, Majdi Ahmad Husayn became chief editor of AL-SHA'B, and most of its seats [not further specified] were controlled by the Muslim Brotherhood.

Officially, some leaders appreciated what was published in AL- SHA'B [not further specified].

Executive Bureau member Majdi Qarqar, who is closely associated with the brotherhood and in charge of the professional associations, said: Change in the party was necessary to cope with new circumstances and needs as well as the growing party membership.

Major General Tal'at Muslim, member of the Political Bureau, said: Dr. Hilmi Murad's circumstances did not allow him to serve as secretary general when they party was being reorganized. 'Adil Husayn, because of his role, personal capability, and ability to assume full time work was a suitable choice for secretary general.

Earlier, Ibrahim Shukri invited Brotherhood leaders al-Hudaybi, Mashhur, and al-Malt to dinner and informed them that Dr. Hilmi Murad would become a deputy leader instead of Muhammad Hasan Durrah, who did not run for membership in the Executive Committee.

The Muslim Brotherhood leaders had more information than Ibrahim Shukri gave them at the dinner banquet at his house in al-Jizah. Many second and third-rank members have spread throughout the party institutions, 28 of them becoming members of the 45-member executive committee.

Among the Brotherhood members are: Ahmad al-Mahdi; Muhammad Abu- al-Futuh; Dr. Salah 'Abd-al-Mit'al; Khalid al-Za'farani, former People's Assembly member and a known Muslim Brotherhood member, who was among the founders of the Islamic Group at the university [not further identified]; Mustafa Darwish; Mahfuz 'Azzam, nephew of Salim 'Azzam, secretary of the World Islamic Center; 'Abdallah Hilal, member of the board of directors of a teaching faculty club; Yusuf Kamal, member of the lawyers association council; and Majdi Qarqar.

A similar situation existed in the governorates, where members of extremist groups assumed positions in the Labor Party. There are al-Jihad Organization members in al-Manzalah and al-Jammaliyah in al-Daqahliyah Governorate. One of them was accused in an al-Jihad Organization case. The Muslim Brotherhood clearly dominates in some governorates, with Dr. Ahmad al-Mahdi in al-Minya; Husayn al-Dali, secretary of the Labor Party branch, in Qina; Khalid al-Za'farani in Alexandria; Ahmad Nuh in Bani Suwayf; and Mustafa Darwish in Suhaj. Salah 'Abd-al-Mit'al and Muhammad Abu-al-Futuh are expected to be appointed to organizational posts dealing with education and the Islamic call. It is odd that the Labor Party and the Muslim Brotherhood deny any connection between these names and the banned group and describe them as friends of the Muslim Brotherhood. This, it seems, is a new level of Organization membership.

These new conditions were also reflected in victory for those who advocated steering the party toward a religious posture. The family of Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn secured five seats in addition to supporters against only three seats secured by the family of Ibrahim Shukri, whose authority over the party is weakening.

Husayn family members who won seats were: 'Adil Husayn; Majdi Ahmad Husayn, chief editor of AL-SHA'B and nephew of 'Adil Husayn; Dr. Hilmi Murad, family member and married to Ahmad Husayn's sister; Dr. Najla al-Bayyumi, wife of Majid Ahmad Husayn; and Fayiz Muhammad 'Ali, cousin of Hilmi Murad.

Shukri family members who won seats were: Party leader Ibrahim Shukri, his son Ahmad, assistant secretary for organizational affairs, and his daughter Asmahan.

The chances open to the old socialist guard have decreased, despite it donning the gown of religion. An informed party source said they number no more than 80 members. [passage omitted]

Government Closure of Brotherhood Paper Questioned

NC0206090393 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 May 93 p 1

[Report attributed to "AL-SHA'B"]

[Text] Our [Socialist Labor] Party was sorry to hear of the closure of the weekly AL-USRAH AL-'ARABIYAH, mouthpiece of the Muslim Brotherhood, after only four issues were published. The newspaper stopped publishing on Sunday [23 May] following a governmental decision, which we think violates the most fundamental of democratic rights. We believe the democratic experience will not be right unless the Muslim Brotherhood is allowed to establish a legitimate political party. The group should be allowed to express its views, positions, and ideology through a newspaper, instead of having all its attempts to exercise this right combated. We appeal to everyone who advocates democracy to announce their position on this new aggression against democracy and press freedom.

Libya

JANA Editor Says Jersualem Pilgrimage Unofficial

LD0106223893 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] JANA's Arab affairs editor said in his commentary today: The travel by a group of Libyan Arab pilgrims to al-Aqsa Mosque—the first of the two Qiblahs and from where the Prophet Mohammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, on a night journey ascended to heaven to perform their religious rites by praying in the mosque—took place following the refusal of the Saudi Government to receive the Libyan airplanes carrying the Libyan pilgrims, under the pretext of the unjust Resolution No. 748, despite its exclusion of the religious and humanitarian aspects of the embargo, and despite the approval by the Sudanese authorities of the passage of these planes.

The Libyan pilgrims were forced to land in Tubruq airport and go to holy Jerusalem by land to perform their religious rites by praying in Al-Aqsa Mosque. [passage omitted]

The editor pointed out that the arrival of a number of Libyan pilgrims at al-Aqsa Mosque does not have any official capacity nor does it mean contacting the Israelis, as some tried to hint. The great 1st of September revolution does not need to stress its national constant stands on the liberation of all of Palestine and on achieving Arab unity. The Arab masses are aware that all the confrontations waged by the great 1st of September revolution are because of these stands. The Arab masses also know very well who engages in one-upping and who are the parasites with regard to the national cause.

Envoy: 'No Comment' on al-Qadhdhafi Israeli Visit

JN0106183493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Report by 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Yahyawi from Brussels]

[Text] Political circles in Europe and Belgium have welcomed what is called here the beginning of a Libyan-Israeli rapprochement in the interests of the Middle East peace process. Many questions are being asked, however, about the intentions behind the Libyan leadership's propaganda and its sending of 192 Libyans to occupied Jerusalem, where they were welcomed by Israeli occupation authorities.

Dr. Muhammad Sharaf-al-Din al-Fayturi, Libyan ambassador to Belgium and the EC, spoke to Radio Monte Carlo about the arrival of the 192 Libyan pilgrims to holy Jerusalem. He said:

[Begin al-Fayturi recording] As you know, for two years Libyans have been banned from traveling to visit the holy places in Mecca, to visit the prophet's tomb, and perform other rites of pilgrimage. This has been the result of an unjust resolution—Resolution 748. Regrettably, the Saudi Government has not acted to help the Libyan pilgrims reach the holy places. Naturally, holy Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state. As you know, for Muslims, visiting Jerusalem is a part of pilgrimage. Therefore, when Libyans or others go to Jerusalem—the capital of Palestine, the Palestinian state—it is, first, a personal matter, with which the Libyan Government has nothing to do; second, it is a purely religious matter. This has happened because Libyans have been prevented from performing pilgrimage for two years because of an unjust resolution. [end recording]

Dr. Sharaf-al-Din al-Fayturi, who is described here as the engineer of Libyan-European rapprochement, has neither denied nor confirmed that a visit by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Israel is under preparation. He only said:

[Begin al-Fayturi recording] In fact, I have no comment on this subject. This is because the Arab citizen—who knows who Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is—certainly knows how to comment on such a report. [end recording]

The Libyan diplomat concluded his statement to Radio Monte Carlo by affirming that the disappearance of Belgian Minister Robert Urbain last week and then his appearance in Libya was due to mediation by Brussels between Libya and the West to settle the Lockerbie crisis.

Media Report on Visit by Belgian Trade Minister

Meeting With Official

LD3005111993 Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Tripoli, al Maa [May] 30, JAMAHIRYA NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation ['Umar al-Muntasir] last night met with the Belgian minister for external trade and European affairs [Robert Urbain] who arrived in Tripoli yesterday afternoon. The meeting was attended by the secretary general for the affairs of international cooperation, the secretary of the Libyan Arab people's bureau to Brussels and the delegation in the company of the Belgian minister.

Belgian Minister Ends Visit

LD3005212893 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Robert Urbain, Belgian minister of foreign trade and European affairs, left Tripoli this morning after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah lasting one day during which he met with the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

No Belgian Confirmation of Report

LD3005164893 Brussels La Une Radio Network in French 1600 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Was Robert Urbain, Belgian minister of foreign trade, in Libya this weekend or not? The official Libyan JANA agency announced that Robert Urbain left Tripoli this Sunday after a 24-hour visit to Libya. JANA added that the Belgian minister of foreign trade met the head of Libyan foreign affairs in Tripoli, but the agency gave no details about the contents of the conversation.

As you know, Libya is subject to an air and military embargo decreed by the United Nations. The United Nations also advocated a reduction of diplomatic exchanges with Tripoli.

Mr. Urbain's visit to Libya has not been confirmed in Brussels. The spokesman at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed amazement at the news given by the Libyan agency. The spokesman at the ministry also said that Mr. Urbain is on holiday in Tunisia.

Mr. Urbain's office does not want to react for the moment. They are waiting for Robert Urbain to contact them directly from Tunisia.

Morocco

King Reduces Terms for Almost 1,400 Prisoners

LD3105221693 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 31 May 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Ministry of Justice issued the following statement on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha this year:

His majesty and reverence, may God maintain his glory and victory, issued, God protect him, his obeyed command to reprieve 1,105 prisoners from their remaining sentences of detention or imprisonment; to reduce the sentence of detention or imprisonment of 250 detainees; to transfer the life sentence of three prisoners to a fixed sentence; to reprieve 24 people from all the prison sentence or what remains of it while maintaining the fines; to reprieve seven people from imprisonment; and to lift a fine punishment for five people. [passage omitted]

U.S. Senator Received by King, Interior Minister

LD0106124693 Rabat MAP in English 1230 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Rabat, June 01 (MAP)—King Hassan II of Morocco received here Monday night at the Royal Palace American Congress member Harry Johnston who was accompanied by several American personalities.

The audience was attended by Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali, royal adviser for economic and financial affairs Andre Azoulay and Moroccan Ambassador to the United States Mohamed Benaissa.

The American senator earlier visited the town of Laayune, southern Morocco, and was acquainted with the social and tourist facilities and utilities and with the 'camps of unity'.

The American official, who was accompanied by Moroccan roving ambassador Ibrahim Hakim and other Moroccan officials, convened a meeting with the inhabitants of the province.

The latter said of their readiness to participate in the confirmative referendum in the Sahara and reiterated their attachment to the Moroccan territorial integrity and loyalty to the Alawite throne.

Johnston, who is also chairman of the Commission for Africa, held later on a working session with Moroccan Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri. The two sides conferred on development programs in Morocco.

Basri expounded the economic liberal policy of Morocco that enabled have a good cooperation with American and European countries adding Moroccan legislation and regulations are up to those of other legislative systems worldwide with the introduction of reforms by the Moroccan revised constitution meant to enhance the democratic process in the country.

On the Moroccan territorial integrity, Basri said the kingdom is ready to organize the soonest the referendum to alleviate the suffering of 'our Saharan countrymen living in the Lahmada camps'.

Sudan

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Begins Visit

EA3105145293 Khartoum SUNA in English 0945 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 31 May (SUNA)—President of Palestine State, Yasir 'Arafat, arrived here Sunday [30 May] on a visit to the country. 'Arafat said in a statement that his visit aims at briefing the chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council], Gen 'Umar al-Bashir, on the current developments of the Palestinian question. He performed 'Id al-Kebir prayers with the RCC chairman at al-Khalifah Abdullahi mosque in Omdurman.

Minister Reiterates Principle of Sovereignty

EA3005162693 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Sudan has reiterated its principle of sovereignty over the whole of Sudanese territory and Sudan's rejection of all forms of foreign intervention on its territory. Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, the foreign minister, said after his meeting on 29 May in his office with the American ambassador in Khartoum that the government had earlier declared a cease-fire and had appealed to all sides to stop fighting, particularly the fighting among the rebel factions in Upper Nile.

His excellency the minister said that the ambassador had briefed him on the results of his visit to Nairobi and tour of various places in the south of the country, his contacts with the rebel factions in Upper Nile at Kongor, Ayod, Waat, and Yei and on the setting up of a demilitarized zone to enable the united organizations [as heard]—the voluntary relief organizations—to send in food and medicine to those in need.

Statement on Second Round of Abuja Talks Issued

EA3005164593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] The Transitional National Assembly has stressed in a statement on the results of the second round of peace negotiations in Abuja, Nigeria, that the problem of southern Sudan has political dimensions which can only be approached through peaceful means and protracted talks without touching on issues affecting national territorial integrity and the equal national rights of all Sudanese. In its statement, the Assembly called on Garang's faction to attend the next round talks on 19 June with open hearts and a large measure of impartiality.

The Assembly said the next round of negotiations should be the final one and that the two sides should arrive at a just and comprehensive solution to this tragedy. The Assembly praised the role performed by the government delegation during the negotiations, a role which had been characterized by flexibility, thus reflecting the delegation's keenness to arrive at an agreement resulting in a permanent peace. The assembly lauded the delegation's achievements.

The Assembly stressed the importance of maintaining unity and cohesiveness in the internal front and the need for all national forces to participate in the peace process by lending their support to the efforts of the delegation to be sent, by guaranteeing the concentration of all sincere efforts aimed at bringing about peace and by mobilizing all resources to be brought to bear on effecting reconstruction and development.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister's Activities in U.S. Reported

LD2805200593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya is currently on a visit to Washington and has already met with several American officials. We have details from our correspondent in Washington Wassila Baldi.

[Begin Baldi recording] Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya held talks with officials in the U.S. Administration within the framework of the annual regular consultations between officials in the two countries. [passage omitted] Ben Yahya met with the U.S. secretary of state in which they discussed a number of Arab and international issues, including those related to the Middle East peace process, Tunisia's role in the Arab Maghreb region, and other issues related to economic reforms and development in Tunisia.

In talks I had with Ben Yahya, he told me that this visit acquires special importance because Tunisia is chairing the Arab Maghreb Union this year, and also because the U.S. Administration is a new one. Ben Yahya further said that he acquainted himself with the analyses of the new administration with regard to the international issues including the peace process, the issues concerning the Arab and Islamic countries, as well as the stand of the new administration in connection with the settlement of those issues. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Ben Yahya said that Tunisia is taking part in the multilateral talks at the request of the Palestinians. He said that Tunisia's stand regarding the Palestinian issue is clear: It lies in the necessity of respecting the Palestinian decision. He said that Tunisia's role consists in helping find the peaceful solution between the conflicting sides within the framework of these negotiations be they bilateral or multilateral. At a news briefing earlier today for Arab and domestic correspondents, Ben Yahya answered many questions related to the situation in the region as well as Tunisia's role in the Arab-Israeli talks, and whether Tunisia now is playing the role of a mediator in these talks. Ben Yahya indicated that the PLO does not need a mediator between it and the U.S. Administration. He said that Tunisia believes in the right for the Palestinians to defend their legitimate rights, noting that Tunisia pledged to the PLO following its move to Tunis in 1982 that it would not interfere in its internal affairs. He said, however, this does not mean that we do not hold consultations with the Palestinians about issues of mutual concern.

Ben Yahya said that Tunisia, in agreement with the PLO, will host and organize the proceedings of the special committee in charge of the situation of the refugees which is a subcommittee of the Middle East multilateral peace talks. The foreign minister hoped to see an improvement of the situation of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Among other issues discussed with correspondents today, Ben Yahya raised the issue of events in Bosnia and the Tunisian position. He defended the Muslims in this former Yugoslav Republic and called for a halt to massacres and to the process of ethnic cleansing. [passage omitted]

It has also been reported that Ben Yahya also met with General Colin Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. Among the topics they discussed were the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Tunisian-American bilateral relations, and the situation in the Arab Maghreb region. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Mozambique's President Chissano Arrives on Visit

LD2805141893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] At the inviaition of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano arrived at Tunis- Carthage International Airport on an official visit to Tunisia this morning. The head of state welcomed the president of Mozambique at the foot of the staircase leading to the aircraft, while a 21-gun salute was fired by the artillery in honor of Tunisia's esteemed guest.

Ben Ali Hosts Dinner

LD2805225693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 May 93

[Address by President Ben Ali at a dinner given in honor of Mozambique President Joaquim Alberto Chissano on 28 May in Tunis—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellencies, dear guests. It gives pleasure to welcome once again His Excellency Joaquim Alberto Chissano, the president of the fraternal Republic of Mozambique and to extend my sincere greetings to him and to the accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

We hope this meeting will be the beginning of a new era and will strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries and bolster the deep-rooted African ties in all fields. [passage omitted]

Tunisia, which has always adhered to providing support for the movements which have been fighting for liberation from colonialism and which have been fighting against racial discrimination in Africa, has never spared any effort for supporting the liberation front of Mozambique in the international community and in local and regional forums; it expresses its deep satisfaction with the agreements concluded in Rome and expresses the hope that all the sides will endeavor to uphold the provisions of these agreements so that they may be implemented for serving the higher interests of the people of Mozambique and so that they strengthen security and stability in this area of the African continent. [passage omitted]

On this occasion we express our satisfaction with the resumption of the constitutional negotiations between the political forces in the Republic of South africa and the declaration to set up the provisional executive council in the near future and to conduct free elections for establishing a unified democratic state in which all forms of discrimination and segrigation disappear. In as much as we are happy and optimistic to see the area of South Africa gradually proceeding toward relaxation and the end of crises we are concerned about the difficulties the peace process has been encountering in solving the Palestinian issue in a fair, comprehensive, and lasting way and in order to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which had gone on for too long. [passage omitted]

We also condemn the aggression and campaigns of exterminations and ethnic cleansing that have no parallel in the present history, which are being carried out against the Muslim sons of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The international community is called upon to tackle this issue with more seriousness and firmness in order to make the Serbs comply with the UN Security Council resolutions and put an end to the destructive war to which Bosnia-Herzegovina is exposed. [passage omitted]

In as much as we are working relentlessly to strengthen the foundations of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] we ara making efforts to make it an element of rapprochement and fruitful exchange between all the nations and regional groupings, and in particular the African people. For this purpose we, during our previous chairmanship of the AMU, made efforts to contact numerous African groupings including the group for the development of the area of South Africa. We will continue to work for establishing distinguished relations with these groups. [passage omitted]

Chissano Lauds Ties

LD2905025693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpts] President Chissano made a reply speech at the banquet, in which he said he is very relaxed in Tunisia and that he feels how close the people of Tunisia and Mozambique are. He confirmed that the friendship that brought them together goes back to the armed struggle for the liberation of Mozambique under the leadership of the Mozambique Liberation Front. [passage omitted]

Chissano said that following the independence of Mozambique, the two peoples pursued cooperation in the diplomatic field in their effort to find a solution to the numerous issues which concern the African Continent and the nations of the Middle East, particularly in confronting instability in South Africa. [passage omitted]

The Mozambique president said he is certain that the Tunisian Government and people will continue to support the state of Mozambique in this crucial stage for the general implementation of the peace agreement, where new challenges have emerged—like integrating the military in the the life of the community and the operation of integrating the thousands of refugees and homeless.

On the other hand, Chissano raised a number of current issues concerning the African Continent. In this connection, he voiced his country's concern and its great interest in the development of the course leading to the final destruction of apartheid in South Africa. On the other hand, he affirmed the need for the international community to intervene to end the war in Angola.

As for the Middle East, Chissano explained that his country has been following with concern the progress of the negotiations which seek to establish permanent peace in this area.

In conclusion, the guest of Tunisia affirmed that the social and economic successes that have been realized by Tunisia and the horizons that have been opened by the establishment of peace in Mozambique encourage the establishment of the kind of cooperation that serves the joint development of the two countries.

Mozambican Foreign Minister Holds Talks

MB2905170093 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Pascoal Mocumbi, who is accompanying President Joaquim Chissano on his visit to Tunisia, has met with Said Ben Mustapha, Tunisian secretary of state for foreign affairs [title as heard]. The two diplomats discussed the possibility that the joint commission will meet this year. The creation of that commission is provided for in terms of an existing bilateral cooperation accord.

Joint Communique Issued

LD2905202493 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] A joint Tunisian-Mozambique communique has been issued. It says that the talks between the two heads of state were characterized by a friendly and fraternal atmosphere and enabled the two sides to deeply discuss bilateral relations and the means of improving them. They also had an extensive exchange of views on topical African and international issues. The two presidents expressed satisfaction with the friendly nature of the bonds linking the fraternal peoples of Tunisia and Mozambique which are based on their joint attachment to African solidarity, international law and legitimacy, and sublime human values.

The joint communique also says that the two heads of state expressed their intention to promote cooperation between the two countries in all sectors of mutual interest and to expand the legislative framework of bilateral relations. They decided to convene a meeting of the mixed cooperation commission at the earliest possible date. They also decided to encourage any initiative that aims at increasing cooperation between the two countries.

The joint communique also contains the two countries' reaffirmation of their commitment to the principles of the United Nations, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement and their aims. They decided to improve consultation between officials of the two countries at bilateral meetings and regional and international gatherings.

Western Sahara

Polisario Dissatisfied With UN Report, Proposals

LD3005120493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 May 1993

[Text] By the end of this week the problem of Western Sahara will enter another phase which could be decisive, given the emerging new facts disclosed by UN sources to our correspondent Noreddine Moussadek in Western Sahara.

[Moussadek] First of all, this week Saharan official circles carried out a study of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's report, which was circulated within the United Nations on 21 May. In his report, Butrus-Ghali expressed the view that a referendum should be held in Western Sahara before direct talks take place between the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario] and Morocco.

Saharan official circles have described the report as a bad one and expressed their dissatisfaction with it. They asserted—and I quote here—that resolving the problem in this manner, i.e. holding a referendum before direct talks, would be like imposing talks between victor and vanquished. Such wariness was, however, apparent in the Polisario recent position that the necessary conditions for holding a referendum in Western Sahara do not exist. Nevertheless, the same sources did not mention the main hurdle which has been obstructing the holding of the referendum—that is, the list of electors. Should the Spanish list of 1974 be taken as the point of reference for those eligible to vote or not? A wait-and- see position was, however, adopted by Polisario on this issue until UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's tour of North Africa.

Sources at the UN Mission for the Organization of the Referendum in the Western Sahara [MINURSO] have disclosed to us that Butrus- Ghali will be holding lengthy talks with Bachir Mustapha Sayed, the Saharan coordinator with MINURSO, on this problem, as well as with Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz. The same sources have asserted, furthermore, that the UN-Polisario talks will be held in (Raboli), in liberated Saharan territories, on 4 June; they will be the last leg of talks after Moroccan-UN talks in Rabat and Algerian-UN talks in Algiers. The same sources have also pointed out that the UN secretary general will not be making any statement before the end of the three rounds of talks. He will, however, give a brief news conference at the conclusion of his tour of the region, the sources said.

Official Wants UN Fairness

LD0206084993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Excerpt] In the aim of finding a way out of the disagreement between the Polisario Front and Morocco over arrangements for the self-determination referendum due to be held in Western Sahara before the end of the current year, a Saharan official asked the United Nations to be fair in dealing with the two parties to the dispute. This report from Nabila Khalifia:

[Khalifia] The foreign minister of the Saharan Republic, Mohamed Salem Ould Salek, today asked the United Nations to be fair in dealing with the two parties to the dispute, the Polisario Front and Morocco, to find a way out of the Western Sahara conflict.

In a statement issued on the occasion of the UN secretary general's current visit to the region, of which APS received a copy, the Saharan official expressed surprise that Mauritania, an observer country in the peace process in Western Sahara, was not included in the secretary general's visit and that the Organization of African Unity, the UN's partner in the process, was absent, contrary to the arrangements of the UN Security Counci and the UN General Assembly resolutions on the peace plan.

In dealing with the implementatation of the peace plan, Mr. Ould Salek reaffirmed the readiness of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic government and the Polisario Front to contribute to the success of the secretary general's visit and to find a settlement to standing problems with Morocco.

Mr. Ould Salek warned that while the Saharan side was committed to full implementation of the peace plan, it would not allow the self-determination referendum to become a process through which the illegitimate occupation of Western Sahara would be consolidated. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Official on Damascus Declaration Meeting

LD2805135193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1310 GMT 28 May 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 28 May (KUNA)—In a press statement published here today, Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry under secretary, has denied that the forthcoming meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration member states will be confined to the discussion of security and military issues relating to the protection of Gulf security. He said in a statement to AL-ANBA that the meeting will address other important issues, including financial, economic, and cultural exchanges. [passage omitted]

Al-Shahin said that the meeting will be preceded by a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers in Riyadh on 7 June. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Official Denies Libyans Prevented From Visiting Mecca

NC0106151593 Paris AFP in English 1443 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Riyadh, June 1 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia voiced anger and surprise on Tuesday [1 June] at the Libyan pilgrimage to Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem, accusing Libya's leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of betraying the Muslim world.

An official dismissed the Libyan charge that the pilgrims were forced to go to Jerusalem because Riyadh denied them access to Islam's holiest sites in the western Saudi city of Mecca.

"The Saudi authorities did not prevent any Libyans from making the pilgrimage to Mecca," insisted the official, declining to be named.

He said no visa requests were turned down and 6,000 Libyan pilgrims were in Saudi Arabia for last week's annual pilgrimage, which was followed on Monday [1 June] by the Muslim feast of the sacrifice.

Several other officials voiced dismay over the Libyan pilgrimage to holy sites in Jerusalem, the first group visit from an Arab country since Israel annexed the Arab eastern sector in 1967.

"No Muslim, even in Egypt and Turkey which recognize Israel, has ever undertaken such an initiative," another official said.

The newspaper 'UKAZ said that al-Qadhdhafi was "ready to undertake any initiative to save his skin...including a visit to Israel and recognition of the Hebrew state."

"The comedy of what Colonel al-Qadhdhafi calls the Libyan pilgrims in Jerusalem exposes his suspect links with Israel over his 24 years" in power, it said.

"Al-Qadhdhafi should have carried out his act of treason to prove his good intentions toward Israel and prepare for recognition of that country without holding Saudi Arabia responsible for his new crime."

The official Libyan news agency has said the pilgrims travelled to Jerusalem, instead of Mecca, because Riyadh refused to allow their plane to land.

The Saudis argued they had to abide by the U.N. air traffic embargo against Libya, it said.

The United Nations Security Council imposed sanctions on Libya last year after Tripoli refused to hand over two Libyans indicted for the 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner over Scotland that claimed 270 lives.

Amid sparse reaction to the Libyan pilgrimage from elsewhere in the Arab world, which was on holiday for the feast, the Syrian official daily TISHRIN said Tuesday the visit had aroused a "wave of protests."

Most Arab news agencies did not report the visit to Jerusalem.

Libyan Version of Situation Rejected

LD0106200293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1725 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Jeddah, 1 Jun (SPA)—In view of what Libyan media have been reiterating over the past two days about Libyan pilgrims going by land to Jerusalem after Saudi authorities refused to allow them in by air, according to claims by different sources on this topic, a responsible source made a statement to SPA today:

It is not strange that the Libyan regime would resort to such fabrications with which it is vainly attempting to justify its mistakes and behavior toward its people. This regime, headed by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, is in the habit of surprising the world from time to time with its repulsive spectacles and strange practices.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has previously clarified in more than one official and publicized statement that all the reiterated Libyan claims on this issue are totally untrue.

We said that the Kingdom did not refuse to meet the Libyan pilgrims, and it welcomes them when they arrive in its lands.

As proof, last year and this year the Kingdom received thousands of Libyan pilgrims who came by land or air. It served as their host at its own expense in line with directives issued by the custodian of the two holy mosques, God protect him. Some of the Libyans made statements expressing their thanks and gratitude for what they found in care, generosity, and [word indistinct]. Their statements were announced at the time through the media.

We said that the air embargo imposed on Libya in accordance with international resolution 748 passed by the Security Council in April 1992 is the factor that prevented Libyan planes from crossing Arab airspace to the Kingdom. We also said that the responsibility of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is limited to welcoming the pilgrims arriving in it from any Islamic country immediately upon arrival to the Kingdom's territories, and it is absolutely not its responsibility to provide the means for their transport to it or to obtain permits for the planes carrying the pilgrims. That is the responsibility of those countries.

The source went on to say:

As we have pointed out on many occasions, we refer to the efforts exerted by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, at Arab and international levels in last year's hajj at the request of the Libyan Government to enable the Libyan pilgrims to arrive in the Kingdom. However, after all means for their arrival were made available, two days before the hajj Libya informed the Saudi authorities that it had decided not to send its pilgrims to the Kingdom.

The source added:

Although these facts are clear to all and although they have become known to everyone, the Libyan regime today returns to its false allegations to the effect that the Saudi authorities refused to welcome their pilgrims. The Libyan regime uses this as an excuse to justify the disgraceful behavior it embarked on to the astonishment, surprise, and condemnation of the Islamic and Arab world, when it sent about 200 Libyan citizens to the Arab territories occupied by Israel under the pretext of performing the pilgrimage duty to Holy Jerusalem, as the Libyan and subsequently the Israeli press and media mentioned, and news agencies and radio stations in all Arab and Western capitals reported.

It is a known fact that in a recent speech al-Qadhdhafi announced that he would transfer the qubba and the hajj to al-Aqsa mosque. By so announcing, he violated the sanctity of the oldest rite in Islam, which is the visit to God's house and to the qiblah of the Muslims. He also violated all Arab League resolutions, Palestinian rights, and the principles of the peace process, namely the principle of land for peace, which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes and supports.

The source continued: Little wonder. If we go back to al-Qadhdhafi's words and acts, we can see that many of his stances wronged Islam and the Muslims. Did he not say in some of his speeches that there is no need for hajj and that it is a waste of time for the Muslims. Did he not call for dropping some verses from the Holy Koran—a book sublime: falsehood comes not to it from before it nor from behind it [Koranic verse]—and also for dropping the verb "Say" from one of the surates?

Did he not wear gloves at a conference and tell a journalist who asked him why: "So that my hand will not touch anyone who has visited Israel or shaken hands with an Israeli"?

Finally, is that not the same man who, only a few years ago and just a few days before Muslims ascended Mount 'Arafat, sent two aircraft full of armed men to the holy shrines in Saudi Arabia and ordered them to chase stray dogs at Mina and Muzdalifah, according to statements by the armed men, of which there are audio and video records?

The source went on to add: These are some of the pictures and facts of which al-Qadhdhafi's career is full. Should we find it strange that someone with such characteristics and actions would commit any action provocative to the feelings of the Muslims, or would lie before God by accusing the Kingdom of preventing Libyan pilgrims from going to Mecca, thus forcing him to send them to Jerusalem?

In this context, let us contemplate the facts revealed by the Israeli businessman Ya'aqov Nimrodi when the French news agency reported that the spokesman for the Libyan pilgrims, the so-called Dhaw Tajiri, expressed happiness at being in Jerusalem and pointed out that their visit to Jerusalem was important because its mosque is a place of pilgrimage in Islam, that their visit was spontaneous and private, and that they did not consult the Libyan authorities. Nimrodi laughed and took out a fax from his pocket dated August 1992 announcing that the Israeli Government welcomed with enthusiasm the idea of the arrival of Libyan pilgrims in the occupied Arab territories. Nimrodi said: "This visit is very important to us because it is the first step to Libyan recognition of Israel as a fait accompli."

And we bring another proof of al-Qadhdhafi's long-held intention to go to the occupied Arab territories: The fact that Israeli Minister of Police Moshe Shahal pointed to secret contacts between Israel and Libya on the normalization of relations. He said during his meeting on Monday evening with Arab policemen: "The delegation of Libyan pilgrims arrived in Israel today with the approval of the Libyan president and at his initiative," according to Israel radio. There is another admission reported by REUTER citing an Israel radio report of a statement by Nimrodi, who said: "I met the most senior al-Qadhdhafi adviser, and we planned this visit." He also said: "Al-Qadhdhafi hopes that in return, Israel will contribute to Libya's acceptance by the Western world, and he expects us to assist him in the current situation." He said that al-Qadhdhafi's aides had told him that the Libyan leader wants to establish diplomatic relations with Israel and visit Israel this year."

Nimrodi added: "His secretary informed me that al-Qadhdhafi intends to come and recognize the state of Israel, and I believe that al-Qadhdhafi will be in Israel this year."

The source concluded its statement to SPA by saying:

This is the real aspect of al-Qadhdhafi's plan, as reported by the sources we have mentioned, and we have nothing to do with what al-Qadhdhafi says and does. Nevertheless he is trying to use his shameless accusations against the Kingdom as an excuse to conceal his real intentions. While refuting these allegations made to the Libyan people, the Muslim peoples, and to public opinion, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia rejects all his accusations against the Kingdom and forcefully throws them back at their Libyan sources, who have continued to distort the facts and invent unfounded arguments and the usual lies that have unfortunately become one of the characteristics of the head of the Libyan regime Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. We will now leave it to Arab resolutions and the competent Islamic organizations to judge him.

Iranians Hold Disavowal of Infidels Ceremony

LD0106214893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] According to the Voice and Vision correspondent in [Saudi] Arabia, following the ban imposed by the Saudi authorities against the holding of the Disavowal of Infidels ceremony on 6 Dhu Al-Hijjah [28 May], by the decision of Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Reyshahri, representative of the Supreme Jurisconsult and supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims, the ceremony was held in a glorious manner on Tuesday night, 11 Dhu Al-Hijjah [1 June], at the official Iranian residence and Iranian camps in Mina, which were beautifully decorated with Islamic slogans. The glorious ceremony, which began at 2100 Tehran time with recitations from the Holy Koran, was attended by all Iranian pilgrims and by a number of pilgrims from other Islamic countries.

After reading extracts of the message addressed to the pilgrims from His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Mesbah Yazdi, a teacher at Qom seminary, read out the complete text of the Guardian of the Cause [Vali-e Amr] of the Muslims' message, in the Arabic language.

Then, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Mohammadi Reyshahri, the representative of the Supreme Jurisconsult and supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims, said in a speech:

[Begin Reyshahri recording] We were supposed to hold a memorial service in Mina for the imam on the occasion of the anniversary of that eminence's death tonight. But, in view of the fact that the Disavowal of the Infidels ceremony was banned by the Saudi authorities, we decided to turn this massive gathering into the disavowal ceremony. The holding of this ceremony serves as the best kind of memorial service for the imam. In fact, the Disavowal of Infidels ceremony is one of the biggest mementos left by the departed imam for the pilgrims to the House of God, the Iranian nation, and all the faithful Muslims of the world. Not only the impact of what has taken place has been no less than that of the [original] disavowal ceremony, but the impact of this disavowal ceremony was far greater. I deem it necessary here to express my gratitude to the great pilgrims to the House of God, who came to participate in this ceremony but did not have the good fortune of performing it at the original center. [end recording]

Forces Reported Dispatched to Rally

LD0206092893 Tehran IRNA in English 0536 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Mina, Mecca, June 2, IRNA—Tens of thousands of Iranian and non-Iranian hajj pilgrims held a magnificent "Deliverance From Pagans" rally here after congregational evening prayers Tuesday [1 June].

The rally initially planned for last Thursday was banned by the Saudi Government in an un-Islamic move which prompted Iran's strong condemnation. But upon a decision made by head of the Iranian hajj pilgrims Hojjat ol-eslam Mohmmad Mohammadi Reyshahri the ceremony was held Tuesday.

The rally started with recitation of verses from the Holy Koran followed by a message of the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i to hajj pilgrims on the occasion of the hajj rituals.

The leader in his message read by Ayatollah Mesbah Yazdi at the rally, called for Islamic solidarity in order to usher in the real sovereignty of Islam over the ummah worldwide.

He said Muslims should close ranks and unite in order to counter the imperialist powers' campaign against Islam and their satanic stratagems and false propaganda.

The leader brushed aside charges that Iran is opposed to peace or has violated human rights, and said that as a matter of fact the violation of human rights are the events in Bosnia and in Palestine, the expulsion of over 400 Palestinians from their homeland, the shooting down of the Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf by the United States in July 1988, the unjust treatment of black people in America, the burning alive of a large group of people in the U.S. and similar cases.

The message called on hajj pilgrims to use the opportunity of the greatest human assembly on earth in holy Mecca to exchange their experiences, aspirations, achievements and capabilities and try to make their hajj as truly close as possible to the hajj ordained by Islam.

The Arabic version of the message was broadcast on loudspeakers later.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri, addressing the audience, said that Mina was the best place to hold the rally to voice "love for God" and "hatred towards his enemies" led by the great satan, the United States.

Stressing the importance of the rally in negating arrogant and hegemonistic powers, he said that hegemony of oppressive powers led by the criminal U.S. was the root-cause of all the catastrophes the world of Islam was faced with. He added that the spread of the rally into the world of Islam would lead to negation of all oppressive powers and their hegemony.

He considered the domination-seeking policies of arrogance as the main factor behind the problems of Muslim people in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, south Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, Kashmir and any other part of the world.

He said unity among Muslims was the only way to put an end to oppressor's hegemony. He believed that through unity of expression among Muslims, Serbs atrocities would be ended.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he condemned the peace talks with the Zionist regime saying that the Islamic Governments can put an end to the disgraceful existence of the occupier regime of Qods through unity and solidarity.

"In our view, the compromise (peace) talks would only result in further oppression of the oppressed nation of Palestine and we condemn it," he said.

Praising the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni, he said that the Imam stood against all the new idols of the world led by the United States and declared explicitly that "the U.S. cannot do a damn thing."

The cries of antipathy towards infidels, as well as unity among Muslims, death to the U.S. and death the Zionist regime echoed at the Mina desert last night.

After Reyshahri's speech, an eight point resolution was read out and endorsed by shouts of Allah-o-Akbar (God is the greatest).

The resolution considered the global arrogance led by the United States as the main enemy of Islam and Muslims and voiced strong hatred towards international hegemony.

Referring to unity of expression among various Islamic assemblies as the most essential need of the world of Islam at present time, the resolution condemned discord-sowing elements.

It regarded the brutal genocide of oppressed Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a conspiracy masterminded by global arrogance led by the U.S. and which received implicit support of internatinal organizations.

The resolution called on the Islamic countries to utilize all their potentials to end the tragedy and stressed that the Muslim nations would take the oppressed nations' revenge from the criminal Serbs.

Stressing that the occupied Palestine was an inseparable part of the Islamic lands, it voiced overall support for the intifadah and considered total annihilation of the Zionist regime as the only way to settle the Palestine crisis.

It condemned West's cultural onslaught against Islamic and revolutionary values and called for implementation of the historic death fatwa of Imam Khomeyni against Salman Rushdie, the apostate author of "The Satanic Verses".

The participants, in the resolution, voiced firm support for the ever-growing Islamic movements throughout the world including Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Algeria, Lebanon and Kashmir.

They pledged to follow the path of the late Imam and his successor Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i in firmly defending the "pure Muhammadan Islam".

Referring to Ayatollah Khamene'i's message to the head of Iranian hajj pilgrims who considered holding the rally in Mecca as the legitimate right of the Iranian nation, the participants said that they would hold the rally massively every year and in any possible way.

Upon learning about the rally the Saudi Government deployed many anti-riot security and law-enforcement teams around the residence of Iranian hajj pilgrims here.

Saudi Armed Forces were hastily transferred to the area and encircled the venue of the rally. However, they had no chance for reaction as they had been caught by surprise.

Iran's firmness in holding the ceremony five days after it was banned by the Saudi Government proved that expression of antipathy towards global arrogance and international Zionism as well as satanic and anti-religious powers was a lasting and inseparable principle of the religious duty of pilgrims during hajj rituals.

King Fahd Discusses Islam, Foreign Affairs

LD0106200993 Riyadh SPA in English 1235 GMT 1 Jun 93

["Text" of speech by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Saud at a reception honoring heads of pilgrimage missions in Mina on 1 June]

[Excerpts] Mina, Saudi Arabia, June 1, SPA—[passage omitted] Our sights are set on one vital objective, namely to help our Muslim brothers perform their rituals in an atmosphere of security and peace. We will pay no attention to what the vindictive and the prejudiced are inclined to circulate from time to time in an attempt to discredit this country and belittle its creditable deeds. Needless to say that we will press ahead with our efforts to honour our commitments in total disregard of such tendentious propaganda. We will allow nobody to encroach upon our land neither will we tolerate any attempt to give offence to our sanctities nor to compromise the serenity, stability and security enjoyed by pilgrims to the inviolable house of Allah and visitors of the prophet's mosque.

We do hope that Muslim countries will be inclined to cooperate with regard to the enlightenment of their own pilgrims and those others coming therefrom to the holy land, the observance of legal capability as a prerequisite for the performance of the pilgrimage, respect of sanctities, appreciation of the great occasion and the preservation of public health. [passage omitted]

Likewise Islam is the religion of work and perseverance and not a religion of inaction and introversion, for life must continue for ever and ever. Therefore, we are much surprised to hear these days about practices which bear no resemblance at all to the orthodox Islamic creed. Such practices are definitely alien to the ethics of a true Muslim both in their causes and motives.

We are surprised indeed, for we understand that the Islamic ummah, brought up in the tradition of preserving the book of Allah and acting in accordance therewith, following in the footsteps of their prophet, peace and Allah's blessings be on him, and drawing inspiration from the life style of the rightly-guided caliphs, will not cause bad seeds to sprout neither will it beget peoples who are at odds with their ummah's superior set of values.

It follows that the phenomena which we see, or feel or have come to know about, are no more than indiscreet reactions and undisciplined repercussions of abnormal situations. They are simply personal interpretations gone astray, a mode of behaviour shorn of common sense and is in need of being rectified as a step toward reversion to Allah, adherence to his great book. Dealing with these abnormal phenomena requires a measure of patience and farsightedness.

For its part, Saudi Arabia, which takes pride in the enforcement of the laws of shari'ah in full and which continues to implant genuine values of faith in all aspects of life, would like to stress that Islam has never been, and will never be, a religion of conflict or clashes, violence or militancy.

Defects in some communities are no justification for resorting to brutal force, destruction, transgressing on all rights or going by the law of the jungle. They can never justify any move to fan feelings of ill-will, tear common bonds to pieces, compromise national gains, blow up contradictions, annul the authority of the state, abuse its dignity or undermine the security of the country and its people. [passage omitted]

Brothers in faith: There are certain countries which have made a habit of referring to Islam as though it were the power that is going to destroy human civilization, change the face of life beyond recognition and force mankind to slide back into medieval times.

Such a highly biased line of thinking and mode of belief is causing us in Saudi Arabia no little measure of surprise. Our astonishment grows even more as we find that certain parties have drawn a much inflated picture of "independent interpretations" which crop up from time to time as well as of paradoxical and irresponsible behaviour.

Proceeding from these exaggerated impressions, these parties have drawn faulty conclusions and have gone as far as to declare themselves professed enemies of Islam and Muslims.

In the societies to which these parties belong, the talk about Islam has taken a sinister turn which lays the interests of all, open to danger and threatens to widen the gap between our countries and peoples and those countries and peoples, who, as a result of misconceptions, have allowed themselves to be carried away and reach emotional conclusions. [passage omitted: task is to rectify unsound conditions in society and misconceptions toward Islam; Saudi support for justice, freedom, and equality; unity of Islam]

we have exerted intensive efforts, truly and sincerely, to save Muslim Afghanistan, to stop the flow of blood, to unify efforts and energies and embark on reconstruction work following all the destruction which the war has left in its wake.

Of all leaders, states and peoples we, in Saudi Arabia, were the happiest when our brothers the Afghan mojahedin reached agreement in holy Mecca, the holiest and most pure of all spots, in cooperation with our brothers in Pakistan. We felt quite certain then that Afghanistan was on the threshold of a new phase in its history marked by mutual cooperation and a desire to approach the future in a truly Islamic spirit. However, fighting erupted once more and the situation soon deteriorated fast especially of late. This deplorable development has increased our feeling of pain and gave fuel to our fears that there is someone who hates to see Afghanistan living in peace and its heroic people leading a normal life, otherwise he would have given the higher interest of the Afghan nation priority over any other interest, would have contributed to the personification of the true brotherly Islamic spirit on the soil of Afghanistan, would have played a constructive role in boosting confidence among the Afghan leaders, would have been inclined to strike a blow for justice and would never have aggravated the causes lying at the root of discord and destruction.

From this holy place we do appeal, in the name of every Muslim in the world, to the leaders of the Afghan mujahideen to keep in mind the fear of Allah when dealing with their people, their homeland, and their higher interest. We call on them also to prevent a tragic situation which has already deteriorated from deteriorating further, to stop the flow of blood, to prevent anybody from exploiting their deplorable disagreements as a pretext to lay waste to their country and butcher many innocent souls of their own people.

The Mecca Mukarama accord was meant to ensure the welfare of Afghanistan, but the situation now falls short of the high hopes and spirit of goodwill which prevailed at the moment the Afghan leaders affixed their signatures to that historic accord.

We trust that their wisdom is still capable of sidestepping all the causes which have led to the deterioration of the situation once the real interests of Afghanistan, its glorious history and the welfare of its people are placed above all other considerations.

Brothers in faith: The second tragedy which gives rise to much concern is that which is now unfolding on the soil of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

We have exerted, and continue to exert, uninterrupted efforts with prominent leaders in the world with a view to putting an end to the tragedy of the helpless Muslim people of Bosnia who have suffered so much at the hands of the Serbs. The fact that the world community is still wavering with regard to taking a firm stand against the Serbs will aggravate the tragedy and may lead to the extermination of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. In such a case, the credibility of the international community to stand against the aggressor and ease the plight of the victim would be considerably weakened.

For their part, the Muslim countries made their stand in support of Bosnia abundantly clear at the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference held in Jeddah in Jumada al-Thania 7-8, 1413 H (December 1-2, 1992) as well as at various international conferences and platforms. That was not all that we did. We made further contacts, exchanged views and held mutual consultations with all concerned. We are still moving with much energy and in more than one direction, for we feel the catastrophe is of greater dimensions than can possibly be conceived by human imagination.

Wiping a Muslim state off the map would confront the world with problems the like of which it had never faced before. The Serbs better keep this in mind—other countries too are well advised to do likewise. For its part, the United Nations ought to take the necessary measures to avert such a terrible fate otherwise it would have, historically speaking, to share with others the responsibility for the problems which present conditions, if allowed to continue, would create. Such problems could set the flames of militancy ablaze and could stir riots and unrest everywhere in the world.

The ideal solution to the Bosnian problem is to recognize the right of the Bosnian people to set up a peace-loving state in this part of the world. The next move is for peaceful coexistence, mutual understanding and rapport to be established among states and peoples who, although being of different identities, had remained for 75 years part of a single state.

The people of Bosnia-Herzegovina have the full right to live and maintain their independent identity. They may form with their neighbours an integrated whole based on real interests. On what grounds do these neighbours then decline to acknowledge this option?

We have given the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina our full backing in all humanitarian fields. We will, God willing, never abandon them to call a halt to the efforts we exert to enable them maintain their independence and defend their existence and stability. We do hope that other countries may take steps of their own to help stop this tragedy. For our part, we will, God willing, give the Bosnians all the backing they need.

It will add considerably to our pleasure if, by next year's pilgrimage, an acceptable solution to the Bosnian tragedy would have been found making it possible for the Bosnians to come to the holy land in their thousands to perform the pilgrimage.

In the name of pilgrims, we welcome the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina who have come here to perform the pilgrimage this year. May Allah respond to their prayers and the prayers offered by their Muslim breather from the immediate proximity of the holy Ka'ba, from the top of the mount of mercy and from Mina for Bosnia's ultimate victory.

We are quite happy to find that things are changing to the better in the sister country Somalia although the rate of progress is less than what we wish. We are longing to see the nation will take shape and the feeling of real loyalty to Somalia made deeper by all parties. We are quite confident that such a development has become possible thanks to the Addis Ababa meeting between the various Somali factions March 15-27, 1993.

The meeting laid down an objective basis for a number of practical principles aiming at national reconciliation and stability. In a way it was a follow-up of the discussions held in Jeddah in 1412 H [13 July 91 to 2 July 92].

All parties are partners in one homeland and as such they all bear the consequences of any deterioration or setback the country may face in case the negotiations for an agreement did not work.

For its part, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made its contribution to the consecration of law and order and stability in this cherished part of the Arab homeland. It has given all that in its power to rescue the country from destruction. It responded before anybody else did to the requirements of security and peace there. It offered aid in various shapes and forms with a view to speeding up a return to normal conditions. Our efforts are directed at the consecration of security, construction and stability there. We are ready to stand by the brotherly people of Somalia in the area of reconstruction and modernization so that they may achieve happiness.

Brothers in Faith: Since the historic Madrid Conference held on October 21, 1991, we have been monitoring the progress of peace with much interest. We feel that a number of elements, which will inevitably lead to peace in the long run, have been achieved. In the forefront of these fundamentals is the clear and candid acceptance by all, of the principle of exchanging land for peace in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 238 which guarantee the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine and achieve security and peace for all.

Although the previous nine rounds of talks have not led to an agreement on a number of vital points so far, the fact that the dialogue is continuing affirms that there is a common understanding that there is no other alternative for peace, and that efforts must be made in a serious and realistic manner for the achievement of this objective which is fair to all.

The facts of history demonstrate beyond any shadow of doubts that conflicts and wars do not achieve either victories or gains. The Israelis must come to understand that expansionist policies are no longer acceptable to the world community and that the security guarantees they have so often talked about cannot be achieved as long as the rights of the Palestinian people are ignored and as long as the Israeli occupation of the land and their policy of hegemony and domination are continued. Such guarantees will be achieved only under peaceful coexistence between the neighbouring states and peoples.

Moreover, Arab and Muslim peoples of whom we are in the lead will continue to back up the Palestinian people until they have recovered their rights in full. Meanwhile, as we appreciate the rapid moves made by U.S. President Bill Clinton and his administration and the principles which his excellency laid down in this context, we look forward to a positive and direct role to be undertaken by the world community in the direction that could help accelerate the peace process and yield the hoped-for achievement.

Likewise, we are looking forward to a positive Russian and European contribution that may cut short the seemingly never-ending Israeli bargaining tactics and boost the peace that is both just and honourable instead of extortion and go-slow tactics.

We, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will spare no effort in helping to achieve all-out peace on all fronts. We will back up any effort which could lead to the achievement of this objective and contribute to the termination of the state of belligerency and enable the region to utilize all its capabilities and energy in construction and all-round development and achieve prosperity for all the peoples in the region after years of bitter wars and successive losses incurred against a backdrop of slogans which have made us lose much and achieve nothing.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has placed the Palestine issue in the forefront of its priorities and will continue to do so. Our attitude in this connection stems from a point of principle, from constant policies, from an all-round view which grasps the dictates of the higher Arab interest and the requirements of all-out Arab security irrespective of the faults, malpractices and excesses which occurred, or continue to occur, and which are detrimental to the cause and the people of the cause.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, both government and people, has proved that, in dealing with the Palestine cause, it does not allow itself to be influenced by mistakes and similar considerations.

The peace which we all seek will leave the door wide open for real and comprehensive stability which all peoples have been longing for and which we all should cooperate to achieve.

Brothers in Faith: Muslim minorities in some countries of the world find their legitimate rights being trampled under foot. This situation makes it incumbent on the world and Muslims in particular to back these peoples up so that they may enjoy their inalienable rights, which all international laws fully endorse. We call on our Muslim brethren as well as all competent international organizations, to pay attention and give support to Muslim minorities. [passage omitted]

As we address ourselves to you this day we feel that we are talking to brothers in faith, brothers in creed, brothers in one common destiny. It follows that we do not hesitate to deplore any attempt to plunge the pilgrimage rite into the labyrinth of political practice in a crude departure from the great objectives associated with the performance of this pillar of Islam. So much so that some are trying to transfer the pilgrimage into a platform of political maneuvers and the pilgrimage season into a medium of overbidding and raising slogans. They exploit regional and international stands and crises and push them right into this holiest of all places, into this greatest of all occasions.

As we get together today in a spirit of brotherliness, affection and responsibility, we call on you to hold fast to the sublime aims of the pilgrimage, and to resist any irresponsible act aiming to deflect the pilgrimage from its noble objectives, and to do your best to personify the concepts of goodness, peace and harmony where-ever you may happen to be in this holiest of all lands, the land of Ibrahim, Ismail and Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah, peace and Allah's blessings be on them. [passage omitted]

Appeals for Aid to Bosnia, Palestinians

LD0106221493 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2033 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Opening remarks by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Saud at a reception honoring heads of pilgrimage missions in Mina on 1 June—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, blessings and prayers be on the most noble prophet and messenger, our prophet Muhammad. May God's prayers and peace be upon him. O brothers, leaders of the Muslims and those who have come from all the Islamic countries—from Africa or Asia—from the Arab countries or from any place in the world, I greet you in the greeting of Islam and wishes from God Almighty.

The days you have spent in the Kingdom have been days of comfort and stability, and I beseech God Almighty to make us always enjoy the good opinion of our Muslims brothers all over the world.

Brothers, the Islamic bonds that bind us at the level of the various nationalities, continents, and states all over the world are strong bonds that no one can influence in any way. The Islamic faith is a religion and a way of life, a faith of love, a faith of fraternity, in which there is no transgression. It is an educational faith and a faith of worship that leads man, if he behaves well, to the final residence in this world, the garden of paradise.

I hope that we will be, God willing, among those who can provide services to our Muslim brothers in this holy land. I hope, God willing, that we have provided what we could. We will make the effort every year and perhaps develop these places to which many of our Muslim brothers come.

Before I end this speech, we are full of pain and regret at the injustice and aggression that is taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We are still calling on all the countries of the world, especially the members of the Security Council, to be guided by justice and equity. We hear news agency reports, see on television, and read about the flagrant injustice and aggression. The hope is still strong and great that the leaders of opinion in those international communities are guided by justice and equity.

This applies to the problem of Palestine, which has been around for many years. We hope that the international community will be just and equitable with regard to it. We do not want more than fairness and justice.

Finally, I welcome you in this pure land. Today and every year, God willing, you will find the facilities that we can provide to the Muslims in this land. We wish you a blessed hajj and thank you.

Senior Cleric Condemns Terrorism, Sedition

LD0206093493 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 0918 GMT 30 May

[Excerpt from sermon by Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Al al-Shaykh, member of the Senior Ulema Council, to pilgrims at Mount 'Arafat—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Terrorism has never been a phenomenon of the Islamic call. It has never been one of the means of the call. The destruction of the ummah and the sowing of sedition among it have never means of the call. He who calls for God is a person who is faithful and patient; he is truthful and is concerned for the unity of Muslim in words and rank. His aim is to reform society. His objective is to see this society as a Muslim society committed to its religion and preserving its ethics and totally concerned to adopt its method from the Book of God and the sunnah of Muhammad. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Minister Leaves for International Labor Conference

JN0106105193 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Social and Labor Affairs Minister Sayf al-Jarwan left the country for Geneva this morning at the head of the United Arab Emirates delegation to participate in the 90th session of the International Labor Conference due to begin in Geneva tomorrow, Wednesday [3 June]. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Deputy Foreign Minister Confers With PRC Official

JN3005104593 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 May 93

[Excerpt] An official Yemeni-PRC meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry in Sanaa today. Yemeni Deputy Foreign Minister brother 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Qadir led our country's side, while Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang led the PRC side.

The two sides reviewed relations between the two friendly countries and ways to promote and enhance them. They also discussed joint cooperation and its prospects. The two sides reviewed international issues of mutual interest as well as Arab and international developments. They expressed their joint understanding and coordination regarding the common interests and the causes of world justice and peace. [passage omitted]

Party: Regime Shot Christian Kurdish Parliamentarian

NC0206072993 Paris AFP in English 2317 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Dahuk, Iraq, June 1 (AFP)—A Christian member of the Kurdish parliament in northern Iraq was shot dead on Tuesday [1 June] near his home in the town of Dahuk, police said.

Francis Yusuf Shabu, a 42-year-old Assyrian, was one of five Christians elected to parliament in elections last year, which were held in defiance of Baghdad in the Kurdish-held north.

The secretary of his party, the Assyrian Democratic Movement (ADM), blamed Baghdad for the assassination and said it was aimed at wrecking relations between Christians and Muslim Kurds.

"It was an attack against our movement but specially against the friendship and collaboration between Kurds and Assyrians, Christians and Muslims in Kurdistan against the regime in Baghdad," said Yunandim Yusuf Kinna.

"The common enemy (president) Saddam Husayn tries to destroy this relationship by killing an outstanding personality of the ADM," he said, adding that Shabu and his wife had been threatened several times in recent months.

Explosion, Deteriorating Economic Situation Reported

NC0106184493 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Our correspondent has reported that an explosion took place in the tomb of Ibrahim Hasan, father of Barzan al-Tikriti, in (?Baghdad) on 24 May. Our correspondent said that the private car of Major General Nizar al-Tabaqjali was stolen when it was parked near his house in Baghdad on 14 May.

In his report, our correspondent pointed out that the economic situation in areas under the control of the Iraqi regime is continuing to deteriorate.

Turkey's Demirel Thanks Saddam for Congratulatory Cable

JN3105184493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has received a cable from Turkish President Suleyman Demirel thanking him for the cable his excellency sent on his election as Turkey's president. Following is the text:

His Excellency Republic of Iraq President Sadam Husayn, Baghdad.

I thank you for the kind cable you sent on my election as president of the Republic of Turkey. I wish your excellency good health and happiness and the friendly and neighboring Iraqi people peace, prosperity, and well-being.

[Signed] Suleyman Demirel, president, Republic of Turkey

Welfare Party Leader Also Cables Saddam

JN3005191293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 May 93

["Text" of cable from Necmettin Erbakan, "leader of the Turkish Welfare Party," to President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of the 'Id al-Adha]

[Text] Esteemed Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq: We congratulate you and your people on the blessed 'Id al- Adha, beseeching Almighty God to grant you continued good health and safety and to enable you to continue your charitable deeds. Please accept our best regards.

[Signed] Professor Dr. Necmettin Erbakan, leader of the Turkish Welfare Party

Remarks by Libyan Pilgrims Create Controversy

Beilin: Remarks Not Surprising

TA0106121293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Tzvi Lidar; place not given—live]

[Text] [Lidar] We wanted peace, and we nearly got jihad from the visiting Libyans here in Jerusalem.

[Beilin, laughing] Yes, well, anyone who expected peace was really taken by surprise. But those who attached nothing to the visit were not surprised. Now we should be saying that even with this situation, we will not prohibit anyone who wants to pray in Jerusalem in the future. Nevertheless, to see this as bringing us closer to peace with Libya is baseless.

[Lidar] Will it be appropriate to deport them at this time? Will this not slightly harm our declared stand regarding the freedom of worship and pilgrimage?

[Beilin] It would be inappropriate to deport them, and they should not be deported. They will be here for another day or two, and there is no reason to cut their visit short. I suggest that we let them end their visit and go back home.

[Lidar] With your permission, sir, let us put things in order: You and the Foreign Ministry entertained no illusions regarding this visit, and it was not a sign of peace on the part of al-Qadhdhafi. Am I correct?

[Beilin] Look, this is not an official stand or anything. If you ask me, as I was asked yesterday, I say that we witnessed a 20-hour euphoria, which I did not share. I believe that al-Qadhdhafi is making efforts to free himself of the embargo imposed on him. We will not assist him in this endeavor. He sent some 200 men here—they are welcome. They may pray here, and it is our duty to make this possible. They will go home, eventually. If they take advantage of this visit to state the well-known Libyan position on solving conflict, I believe this solution is unacceptable to us, to say the least. They will not solve our problems.

[Lidar] But there was talk of inviting Israelis, the chief rabbis, to some international conference in Libya, and other visits were mentioned. Would you advise the Israelis to go there under the current circumstances and in view of what we heard here now?

[Beilin] I would not recommend visits to Libya even if the remarks were not made. Nevertheless, Israel is a free country, and if people are invited and given a visa, they are free to go, although I believe it would be unwise. Israel should not be the country that offers legitimacy to al-Qadhdhafi's regime, certainly not while he is under international boycott. We should not violate the international boycott, and we will not.

[Lidar] Could you help us understand al-Qadhdhafi's thinking—and I know it could be difficult. He sent the pilgrims here as a signal to the West, and at the same time he—and it was apparently him—orders them today to issue the remarks they did. The two moves seem contradictory. How do you settle this contradiction?

[Beilin] I must tell you that I have a lot of expectations of myself, but there is a limit to them as well. Explaining al-Qadhdhafi's moves is the last thing on my mind, believe me. I cannot do that, and I will not attempt this. He tried to shoot in several directions all at once: at the Saudis, at the Americans. And, now that the PLO has criticized him, he decided to present the traditional stand—which the PLO has not been presenting in this manner for quite some time. This used to be the PLO stand 20 years ago, but he has not updated his stands yet. I do not believe we can really explain this. We know this man from the media. We expect very little of him. He has done very grave things over the past several years. He is boycotted by the whole world, and we had better be part of this world.

[Lidar] So, can we forget Ya'aqov Nimrodi's story that al-Qadhdhafi plans a visit in Jerusalem this year?

[Beilin] I cannot officially deny this.

MK's Demand Expulsion

TA0106133993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Knesset Members [MK's] from the coalition and opposition are calling for the expulsion of the Libyan pilgrims following their remarks at this morning's news conference in which they declared that their visit does not constitute recognition of the State of Israel's existence and called for the continuation of the struggle to free Palestine.

Our Knesset correspondent Tziyon Anus notes that Likud MK Limor Livnat called the invitation to the Libyans a political and national folly. MK Refa'el Eytan said that the police and tourism ministers flattered the Libyans yesterday and today they have to be thrown across the border. Labor's Avi Yehezqel said that Israel should have learned from Saudi Arabia, which in its wisdom prevented the Libyans' entry into their country.

Sources close to the Libyan delegation reported that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi ordered the delegation to make the harsh remarks against Israel following Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's comment that the Libyans are a nation of pariahs. The sources said the Libyans had not planned to attack the host country during their stay in Israel. Our correspondent 'Eldad Beck is accompanying the Libyan delegation:

We received from sources close to the Libyan delegation several clarifications on the Libyans' harsh remarks today, which might quell somewhat the storm that has broken out following their news conference. The sources said the Libyans had not intended to attack Israel during their stay here, but had planned to hold the tour without causing a political scandal. However, yesterday's remarks by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, who called Libya a nation of pariahs, angered al-Qadhdhafi, who contacted the head of the Libyan pilgrim delegation last night and ordered him immediately to convene a news conference to attack Israel. Ya'aqov Nimrodi managed to persuade the Libyans to postpone the news conference until today in hopes that tempers might cool, but the tone of references to the head of the Libyan delegation in the Israeli media only increased the Libyans' fury and convinced them to issue a sharp attack on Israel, which had not been planned beforehand.

The Palestinians are also very angry with the Libyan delegation. Palestinian activists in East Jerusalem and the head of the Muslim Waqf prevented the Libyan pilgrims from entering the al-Aqsa Mosque to hold an afternoon prayer because of their anger over the visit. A noon visit to the oriental market in the Old City's Muslim Quarter was also put off for the same reasons. The Libyans are due to try to enter Temple Mount again in half an hour, and we will see if they are allowed to do so this time.

Libyans To Cut Visit Short

TA0106141093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1330 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] The Libyan pilgrim delegation visiting Israel has decided to cut short its visit and return to Libya on 2 June following the storm over their remarks attacking Israel at a news conference this morning. Eldad Beck, who is accompanying the Libyans, has more details:

There has been a snowball effect, which apparently started over remarks made yesterday by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin about the Libyans, today's Libyan reaction, and the Israeli response to the Libyan reaction—a call to cancel immediately the Libyan visit here. All of the above caused the head of the Libyan delegation, most probably following consultations with Tripoli, to announce that he is cutting short the visit. The delegation will return home tomorrow morning after canceling the remainder of the planned tours. The decision followed last-minute attempts by the Israeli organizers to persuade the Libyans to publish a more moderate political declaration, which might have facilitated the continuation of the visit, but the Libyans refused, and so they are going home.

Seek To Avoid 'Commotion'

NC0106135193 Paris AFP in English 1341 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Jerusalem, June 1 (AFP)—A group of Libyan pilgrims on a controversial visit to Israeli-annexed East Jerusalem have decided to cut short their visit, an organizer of the trip said Tuesday [1 June].

An official of the Ziara International travel agency said the 192 pilgrims would leave on Wednesday morning, 24 hours earlier than planned.

"The pilgrims want to avoid any problem with the Israelis and the Palestinians. They came just to pray, and their presence has provoked too much commotion," he told AFP, declining to be named.

Spokesman: Visit Ending as Planned

TA0106165093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Report by Gil Litman—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Why are the Libyan pilgrims cutting short their visit to Israel after triggering a big storm with their remarks at a news conference earlier today? A short time ago, we posed that question to Dau Salim Tajuri, the spokesman of the Libyan delegation.

[Tajuri's remarks in Arabic, followed by Litman's translation] The plan whereby we were supposed to leave Israel on Friday is unacceptable to us and was not coordinated with us. We are leaving tomorrow, as we had planned all along. My family in Libya does not know that we are here. My wife thinks that I am in Mecca, and that is why I must go back, Tajuri said. [passage omitted]

Ministries Exchange Accusations

TA0206042293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] The Foreign and Tourism Ministries have exchanged accusations against the background of the Libyan pilgrims' visit. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that sources in the Tourism Ministry say that uncalled-for remarks by Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin contributed to breaking up the visit. Sources in the Foreign Ministry say, on the other hand, that Tourism Minister Bar'am ignored recommendations he received on how to handle this delegation. The Libyan pilgrims will leave Israel this morning.

Peres Downplays Significance of Incident

TA0206054093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Shalom Qital—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Qital] Mr. Peres, was it possible to receive the Libyans differently?

[Peres] I do not attribute any importance to this. We should not turn every issue into an internal debate. This issue has absolutely no importance. What happened here is that al-Qadhdhafi wanted to make a gesture that would reverberate positively in the world, especially in the United States. We have no objection to the pilgrims' visit. We have always said that Israel is open to worshipers of all religions, unlike to Saudi Arabia, which forbids this. Al-Qadhdhafi, apparently alarmed by the fierce reaction from the Arab world and the Palestinians, later decided to retract, which is not surprising.

With al-Qadhdhafi the least surprising thing is his surprises. Everybody expects him constantly to come up with surprises, and there is nothing special here. I think that altogether al-Qadhdhafi lost much of what might be called his kosher standing in the Arab world. Al-Qadhdhafi, the greatest opponent of Israel, sent pilgrims to Israel. Moreover, he publicized this in an official interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES. He said in that interview that he plans to return funds to Jews who left Libya and that he intends to change his ways. All these remarks came from his own mouth. We should, therefore, avoid these constant internal recriminations.

[Qital] Perhaps we in Israel, and you in the Foreign Ministry, have acted in a self-contradictory way. On one hand, we received the pilgrims, while on the other—since the Libyans are boycotted by the United States and this is not a convenient situation—your deputy Beilin described Libya as a pariah state. Is this a way to receive visitors?

[Peres] First, the United States did not oppose the pilgrims' visit. I think what Beilin meant to say is that Libya is considered an isolated state—this is what he meant. I do not think, however, that this is the main problem. I believe they were alarmed by the reaction of the Palestinians in Jerusalem, as well as that of other places in the world. We should not exaggerate here. I have been cognizant of this issue for many months. The first appeal in this issue was made during my participation at the conference on chemical weapons. At that time I judged the proportions of this issue correctly, and I am not about to change my mind now.

[Qital] Do you think that, this incident notwithstanding, we are witnessing a new development vis-a-vis al-Qadhdhafi?

[Peres] Look, the interesting thing from the political viewpoint is that al-Qadhdhafi is in a difficult situation; otherwise he would not have done this. Apparently the air blockade on Libya is an extremely heavy burden on him. I do not believe he has made an intellectual turnabout. I believe it reflects a difficult internal situation. In my opinion, al-Qadhdhafi will continue to seek ways of breaking through both the psychological and air blockade on Libya. This is not the end of the matter. Egyptian President Mubarak told me that once he took al-Qadhdhafi for a flight over the Gulf of Aqaba near Elat and al-'Aqabah and told him: Look at how the Israelis are developing their country. Then he went on to ask him jokingly whether he wanted to land in Elat to have a closer look.

To put it mildly, al-Qadhdhafi is a very special man. He will undoubtedly continue to act in his familiar manner.

[Qital] Thank you, Mr. Peres.

Arab Notable Terms Visit 'Odd'

TA3105155893 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 May 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, chairman of Israeli Arab Academics Association, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] Good evening, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi.

[Al-Tibi] Good evening to you too.

[Friedman] As an Israeli Palestinian who wants to see the peace process promoted and as a practicing Muslim, your heart must be overflowing with joy at the news of 192 brother Muslims from a rejectionist country making pilgrimage to Jerusalem, possibly heralding the beginning of a new era in the relationship between the two countries and the two nations.

[Al-Tibi] [passage omitted] The only thing my heart has done is miss a beat in grief. This is an odd visit, both in timing and content, from both the Libyan and Israeli angles. It is very strange that a Palestinian residing in a northern neighborhood of Jerusalem, for instance, in Nabulus, or Ramallah, should be unable to pray at al-Aqsa, while Libyans are brought in with pomp and elation to show the whole world that freedom of worship is observed, as your radio has reported. There is no freedom of worship; it is a deliberate....

[Friedman, interrupting] Are your remarks directed at Yitzhaq Rabin or Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi?

[Al-Tibi] Both. I remember that in 1982 Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi suggested that Palestinians under siege in Beirut commit collective suicide. As for Rabin, who says that the Libyans were brought to show that everyone enjoys freedom of worship here, I say: There is no freedom of worship, particularly not for local Palestinians, who cannot reach al-Aqsa Mosque. For that reason, the visit is extremely odd.

[Dan] Are you saying that as long as Palestinians cannot worship there, Libyans should be banned too?

[Al-Tibi] I think this kind of visit should take place after peace accords have been signed. Al-Aqsa Mosque belongs to the Palestinians, and after peace agreements have been signed, these people can visit at the invitation of the Supreme Muslim Council—which, by the way, takes a dim view of this visit and does not intend to receive them. Were I Libyan, I would not come to a place whose proprietors refused to receive me. [passage omitted]

North Korea Requests Aid To Develop Gold Mine

TA3105051093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] North Korea has reportedly requested Israeli assistance in developing a gold mine. This is according to a Qol Yisra'el reporter. He adds that the contacts between Israel and North Korea were with the knowledge of the U.S. Government. The North Korean representative requested scientific and technological assistance in developing the mines. The plan calls for the workers to be North Korean.

Recently, the U.S. Administration has asked Israel to cut off all contacts with North Korea by the middle of next month. That is the date of North Korea's expected announcement as to whether it will accept inspection under the terms of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Officials: Rivalry Paralyzed Ties

TA0106090193 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 1 June 93 p 5

[Report by Alex Fishman]

[Excerpts] Senior Jerusalem officials have claimed that the chance to reach a breakthrough in the diplomatic relations between Israel and North Korea was not torpedoed by the involvement of the U.S. Administration, but by a competition for prestige between the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry.

The officials were reacting to a Qol Yisra'el report that the United States has asked Israel to avoid signing a deal with North Korea for the development of a gold mine. The senior officials confirmed that the U.S. Administration did appeal to the Foreign Ministry to avoid establishing commercial contacts with North Korea until it retracts its decision not to sign the agreement for the nonproliferation of missile technology. At the same time, the officials stressed that the competition between Israeli Administration branches for a monopoly over relations with North Korea caused the paralysis in the vital relations that had begun to develop between the two countries. [passage omitted]

The signals of the North Korean willingness to launch a dialogue with Israel were received here at the end of last year via Jewish-American businessmen who made it clear to the North Korean Government that the sale of long-range surface-to-surface missiles to countries hostile to Israel stands in the way to North Korea's joining the Western economy.

Following cooperation with North Korean officials, Israel has been notified of a package of steps. The package includes the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel, stopping the sale of surface-to-surface missiles to hostile countries, and economic investments.

Peres Interviewed on Peace Process

TA0206073793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Shalom Qital and Ya'aqov Agmon—live]

[Excerpt] [Qital] Good morning to you, Mr. Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Qital] Earlier we spoke about the Libyan affair and about al-Qadhdhafi's policy. I want to pursue this issue by posing this question: Should we not feel optimism over the fact that al-Qadhdhafi is looking for ways to improve his standing?

[Peres] Yes. I think that the changing world is creating pressure on the Arab world. Look, quite a few things transpired in this issue. When we started the multilateral talks many people expressed doubts. Look how things have developed. We have just completed a round of talks in all five committees, and all of them were held in an optimistic and positive atmosphere with certain understandings being achieved. The Palestinians, Egyptians, and Saudis participated. This time, incidentally, the Saudis' attitude differed from before. Moreover, there is a change in the formal positions of North Africa. Tunisia agreed to host the committee on refugee affairs, with the participation of official Israeli representatives. Morocco agreed to host the committee on economic affairs. Our environment minister traveled on a public and official visit to Casablanca.

These are certainly significant changes, which are creating pressure on Libya. What can Libya do? Against whom can it brandish the sword of Islam? Meanwhile the price of oil is falling and the pressure on Libya is growing. You know, all our debates are built on argumentation—give me an argument here and take an argument there. The world, however, is not built of arguments. It is built of situations, interests, processes, and changes. Sometimes the public declarations lag behind reality.

[Agmon] Mr. Peres, based on the analysis of the situation you have just given, can you repeat to the public Labor's promise on the eve of the elections—to wit, that a peace agreement will be achieved within six to nine months?

[Peres] Look, I am not willing to speak in terms of months, because there are two sides to the coin of peace, and it can take longer than that. I think, however, that this is the central and most important promise made by Labor. I believe that Labor will be judged on this issue only. I want to tell you that I am not escaping into the world of excuses. I sincerely believe that we can attain this; I believe we must act with all necessary energy to implement this promise.

[Agmon] Let me understand, is there a new situation now wherein we can say that we have done our part, and now it is the turn of the other side?

[Peres] Absolutely not. I think that both sides must be constantly active in the negotiations. We are at a crossroads, and people are saying that we can turn either to the left or the right. It appears, however, that there is another direction leading straight forward. I believe that we have not exhausted all the possibilities, and I think that the solution will be different from what we expect.

[Qital] What does this mean? Will there be no autonomy for the Palestinians?

[Peres] It is possible, for example, to start with Gaza First. It is possible to grant greater authority to a smaller territory. It is possible to find new and smaller bridges to overcome narrower gaps.

[Agmon] Mr. Peres, how will you overcome the internal Israeli problem—by means of a national referendum or elections, or do you prefer to submit the issue for a Knesset decision, as was done in the case of peace with Egypt?

[Peres] I think that first we should submit the issue to the Knesset. I think the government must fulfill its role. Perhaps the Knesset will then decide to hold a national referendum, and I do not rule out such a possibility. I do not think, however, that we should urge the Arabs to negotiate with us while telling them that these negotiations cannot be concluded because we are bound to carry out a referendum. The Arabs will surely question such negotiations. We have a mandate to negotiate, and we are obliged to conclude these negotiations. We will then submit the issue to the Knesset for decision and approval. If the Knesset considers issue to be sensational, unexpected, and far-reaching to the point of requiring a referendum, then we should turn in that direction. We should not declare this in advance, because if we do so we will greatly undermine the standing of our negotiators.

[Agmon] With this approach you can form a government only with Meretz, because no other partner will accept your approach on how things should be done.

[Peres] First, we formed the government, not only with Meretz, but with SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], as well. I want to tell you that, notwithstanding the various stratagems and maneuvers in the political arena, I believe that it is vital to maintain the partnership with the ultra-Orthodox camp in these negotiations. I think that our partnership with SHAS—disregarding all the gossip surrounding this issue—is vital. SHAS represents an extremely important religious public. Its spiritual leader, Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, has clearly expressed himself in favor of territorial compromise. It is true he also said that after the Messiah comes the borders will have to be corrected, but it is preferable to wait for the Messiah than to base a political platform on the Messiah. [passage omitted]

Health Minister Calls For Withdrawal From Gaza

AU2805170293 Hamburg DIE WOCHE in German 27 May 93 p 18

[Interview with Health Minister Hayim Ramon by Henryk M. Broder; place and date not given: "Flirt at the Barbed Wire"]

[Text] [Broder] Recently you suggested that Israel should unilaterally withdraw from the Gaza Strip....

[Ramon] ...not just recently. I made this suggestion for the first time in October 1987, in a speech in the Knesset. This was two months before the beginning of the intifadah. At that time I said: The situation is explosive, something will happen soon, and we are not able to rule Gaza. At that time I thought that we had no business in Gaza because we would leave anyway in case of a peace settlement. I still think so.

[Broder] The West Bank is something different?

[Ramon] Yes, something completely different. In the West Bank we have completely different interests since it touches on our security. In Gaza this is different. We should not be there at all. What I want to say is: The best thing would be if we withdrew from Gaza as a result of an agreement. However, even if we cannot come to an agreement, we should end our presence in Gaza instead of taking on a responsibility which we cannot bear. I do not think of an immediate overnight withdrawal. We should tell the Palestinians the following: We will leave Gaza in two years. During these two years we want to hold negotiations. If we do not come to a result, we will withdraw nevertheless. And then you must see how you manage. We return the territory without asking who wants to take it: the Arab states, the United Nations, whoever else.

[Broder] This does not apply to the West Bank?

[Ramon] No. In Gaza there are 3,000 Israeli settlers, in the West Bank 100,000. We must take this into consideration. We must keep some form of military presence at the Jordan River, and for that we need an agreement, for that we need the approval of the Palestinians. This is the most important difference.

[Broder] Nevertheless, you advocate Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

[Ramon] Of course, we must withdraw because we do not want to rule the Palestinians who live there. We have a very simple choice: Either we annex them or we leave them. If we annex them, we will create a binational state, some sort of Ireland or Cyprus. And I want Israel to stay a Jewish state, with a stable Jewish majority.

[Broder] Until now Israel has tried a "third path": The territories were not annexed, but there was no withdrawal, either.

[Ramon] The policy of the old Likud government was de facto annexation, without giving the Palestinians political rights. It was the worst of all possibilities, a terrible "third path," which lead us into a political dead- end. If I annex a territory with a population, I must give the inhabitants rights and make them citizens of the state. If I do not want to annex them, I must withdraw. There is nothing in between.

[Broder] We get the impression that the Israelis are currently rather optimistic regarding a solution to the conflict, while the Palestinians are becoming increasingly pessimistic, increasingly dispirited.

[Ramon] That may be. I believe that the Palestinians are once again committing a terrible mistake. We have made offers which have never been made over the past 100 years: We do not want to be your occupiers, we are willing to give back everything that does not endanger our security. We need an interim agreement in order to reduce the hatred on both sides. We want to establish a really good relationship between Israelis and Palestinians, and, as a result of everything that happened in the past, this is not possible overnight. Then we can also negotiate about solutions, which are rejected by both sides at the moment.

[Broder] Also about the Palestinian demand for a sovereign state?

[Ramon] One can negotiate about everything as soon as a beginning has been made. The Palestinians should learn from the Zionists. We have always accepted the things we were offered. We took what we could get.

[Broder] Is it true that the majority of the Israelis consider the cordoning off of the occupied territories correct?

[Ramon] As early as in June 1989 I suggested cordoning off the territories. This proposal was not taken seriously. Today the Israelis say: We do not want any Palestinians here.

[Broder] But that does not mean that these people want to give up the occupied territories. They would like the land without the inhabitants.

[Ramon] If they could decide, they would do without both the territories and their inhabitants.

[Broder] So far, in Israel there has been the formula that the occupied territories are decisive for security.

[Ramon] This was the Likud formula: territories equal security. Now it has turned out that any kind of annexation endangers the safety of the individual Israeli! Since we cordoned off the territories not a single Israeli has been stabbed to death.

[Broder] For the Palestinians in the occupied territories the cordoning off means a further deterioration of their living conditions.

[Ramon] I know, but we had no other choice. If things had continued for some time as they were in March, when 15 Israelis were stabbed to death right in the middle of Israel, no one in our country would have been willing to talk about a peace settlement with the Palestinians. Therefore, we had to do something.

[Broder] Israel is practically negotiating with the PLO now.

[Ramon] We are negotiating with the PLO people who live in the occupied territories.

[Broder] Would it not be a nice gesture to invite 'Arafat to visit Jerusalem?

[Ramon] This is not a question of gestures. It depends on what we want to achieve. Negotiating with 'Arafat would mean that we do not negotiate on autonomy. Already, there is no way to come to a comprehensive, definite solution now. The differences are too great. We must negotiate on autonomy as an interim solution. And for that 'Arafat is not the partner.

[Broder] What solution will be found after the interim period thus depends on how relations between Israelis and Palestinians will develop during the transition period?

[Ramon] Yes. Autonomy is a settlement that leaves all later options open. I believe that we can come to a solution over the next few months. I hope that the Palestinians will not miss this chance.

[Broder] And if they do?

[Ramon] Then the consequences will be tragic both for the Palestinians and for the Israelis.

Rabin Urged To Clarify Intentions on Gaza

TA2805144093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 May 93 p B1

[Editorial: "Where To Begin"]

[Text] Asked at last Sunday's cabinet session what he thought about Yasir 'Arafat's statement that the PLO is prepared to assume control of the Gaza Strip, Yitzhaq Rabin replied that he has no objection to Palestinian self-rule being implemented in the Gaza Strip first. He went on to say that any agreement would have to be formulated in the peace talks in Washington "and not with the PLO."

Many people took notice of this declaration. The prime minister, who had objected to making Gaza the first item on the schedule of the Army's withdrawal, was showing willingness to take a positive attitude toward this notion. Willingness to forsake control of the Gaza Strip is widespread among vast sections of the public, and even Knesset Member Moshe Qatzav hastened to respond positively to the prime minister's remarks. His response could be construed as a hint that the Likud no longer persists in its fundamental opposition to the autonomy plan or that it is willing to make an exception with regard to Gaza.

Qatzav's remarks may reflect the current mood, but what is even more important is the Palestinian reaction. Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi immediately remarked that Gaza should not be separated from the West Bank, while Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi deemed it necessary to stress that the fate of the Gaza Strip must be linked to that of the West Bank. He nevertheless mentioned in the same breath that when an interim arrangement on Palestinian rule during the transition period is attained for both areas, "arrangements for a phased Israeli withdrawal based on a timetable can be discussed. A possible agreement between the two sides to implement the first stage in the Gaza Strip should not be ruled out."

From his remarks, one can tell how oppressed 'Abd-al-Shafi, himself a resident of Gaza, feels by the occupation and how strongly he wants to be rid of it. He was not even averse to the idea of inviting Jordanian and Egyptian troops to the Gaza Strip until the Gazan self-rule gets its act together.

In view of the yearning of the Jewish public to be rid of Gaza and 'Abd-al-Shafi's evident willingness to second such a motion, the question arises: Why does Rabin persist in arguing that the Gaza Strip should not be evacuated unless an agreement to that effect is reached in Washington? Is he expecting the other members of the Palestinian delegation to agree not to implement self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank simultaneously?

Both al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi believe that the areas occupied by Israel in 1967 are a single, albeit geographically separate, national entity. On the other hand, the prime minister told the visiting Dutch foreign minister that Gaza is "a separate territorial unit." 'Arafat, who agrees to the PLO assuming control of Gaza, wants the Gaza Strip to be linked to the West Bank through a corridor ending in Jericho. It is no surprise that Rabin rejects such a proposal, just as the Israeli Government in 1954 rejected John Foster Dulles's idea of transferring Gaza to Jordanian rule by creating a corridor through the Negev.

If autonomy rule is enforced in all the territories, however, both sides will demand freedom of movement from one area to the other. Even if there is no corridor—no Israeli will agree to such a notion—Israel's roads should be open to such movement.

If the prime minister is planning an early exit from Gaza, what is the point in making this plan conditional on the approval of the Palestinian delegation in Washington? The latter might interpret an early Israeli pullout from Gaza as a smoke screen concealing an evil plot to divide the Palestinians into two peoples and might pile new obstacles on the path of the negotiations.

The prime minister must make clear to us what he has in mind. If he has come to the conclusion that Israel will have to leave Gaza in any case, why wait?

Rubinstein Comments on Assessments of Negotiations

TA2805155293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 May 93 p A3

[Report by Revital Brakha]

[Text] "Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi knows that I respect him, but presenting things in a negative light, as though nothing has changed and everything is gloomy, is not accurate and might become a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of delegation to talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, made these remarks last night in an address on the peace process at a seminar in memory of Dov 'Iron at Tel Aviv University.

According to Rubinstein, "We have become much more flexible in our positions. Without yielding on important principles, we have tried to draw closer to our interlocutors. We want a serious dialogue." Rubinstein added that "we made all the attempts to negotiate beyond the fixed timetable, and they have so far remained unilateral initiatives."

Rubinstein believes that "the negotiations call for much optimism and we have no guarantees we will achieve our aims. We paint the picture for our public and they paint it for theirs. It is important to paint the whole picture and not just the gloomy side. There are significant forces trying to hold up progress in the negotiations, and we are definitely aware of what is happening on the Palestinian side, but that calls for courage and for both sides to have feet firmly on the ground."

Rubinstein referred to the circumstances that impaired negotiations in the last meeting. He said: "All the factors were not in our favor. The meeting started late; at first we announced three tracks so that the negotiations would take off after four months. The committees started to work, and the first week was active, but after that the mistakes began."

He said: "The committee was cut not because of things happening in the conference room but outside it, such as PLO frustrations due to promised Saudi funds that did not materialize, and the negotiations became less serious. When we arrived, we decided to present a draft, although perhaps we did not have to do that."

Referring to human rights in the territories, Rubinstein said: "The Palestinians often talked about that, and there were times when they presented us daily reports on the subject. Since we know that the issue is important to them, we suggested that liaison officials be appointed. We are not indifferent to the personal concerns of some of those present, but they also know that those problems do not derive from any Israeli pleasure but are due to our struggle to survive."

In reference to the Jordanians, Rubinstein said: "We brought the Jordanians (the delegation). The Palestinians did not do it, while the Americans only mentioned it. The negotiations with Jordan made more solid progress, but the Jordanians see a linkage to Palestinian issues, so progress is slow."

Beilin: Last Round of Talks 'Most Successful'

TA3105181393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 May 93

[Studio interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Shlomo Ganor on 31 May—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Dr. Beilin, how did the last round of multilateral peace talks differ from previous rounds?

[Beilin] It was the most successful round of talks. Some 50 states participated in the five working groups, and I think we moved from the stage of just talking and discussing very general plans to that of action, specific plans, and budgets for research and surveys to be undertaken in the region to set up the infrastructure—the safety net—for the time when peace comes, so that the sides will see that they have economic, environmental, and other interests and that violating a peace accord will harm self-interests.

[Ganor] Was there a change in the Arab approach to Israel and to the needs of the region?

[Beilin] Definitely. There were several interesting developments. For the first time, Saudi Arabia, which had previously been a very passive participant in the talks, got into the act. There were very warm talks between the Saudi representatives and our delegates and a readiness for more intensive involvement. For the first time, Oman was actively involved in several committees, and its delegates offered suggestions. The most interesting development was that some of the talks in another two or three months will be held in Arab states—Tunis, Morocco, and Egypt—which is also a first.

[Ganor] What projects has there been agreement to set up even before peace is established in the region?

[Beilin] I do not know whether we will be able to set up actual projects prior to the arrival of peace. I suppose that most of the ideas raised will be contingency plans, which will be ready if peace reigns. We will not have to wait for projects and ideas when that comes. There are some very interesting ideas, such as joining the electricity networks in all the states of the region to one grid to save many hundreds of millions of dollars every year. The research on such a project will be started by the EC Commission and Austria. It will be funded internationally. The World Bank has promised $20 million for various research projects, and that is only one example of such a project.

[Ganor] What part is Israel playing in the resettlement of refugees?

[Beilin] For the first time, there were very serious and down-to-earth deliberations in the refugee committee. We suggested that the Foreign Ministry invite Palestinians to agricultural and other projects Israel prepares for foreign countries to train them for various roles for the future and for the time when the autonomy is set up. We can definitely contribute a great deal to the rehabilitation of refugees, training programs, and so forth, and I think that in the near future we will be seeing the first signs of those plans.

[Ganor] Such as?

[Beilin] There is an American proposal for professional training for Palestinian refugees. There are other plans dealing with rehabilitation of the refugees, and so forth.

Says PLO 'Tempered' Palestinian Stands

TA0106100293 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Jun 93 pp 1, 18

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] Judging by the roundup of the third round of the multilateral negotiations, the stands presented by the Arab delegations in these talks were tempered by the PLO. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin says that in instances when PLO representatives did not steer the debates behind the scenes, the Palestinians' stands were more extreme. "In the absence of a PLO umbrella, they feel that flexibility and compromise are unsafe," Beilin said. As an example, the deputy foreign minister cited the environmental debates in Japan: In the absence of PLO representatives in the adjoining hotels, the Palestinians adopted extreme stands. Beilin added that in any event, the PLO honors the accord achieved through U.S. mediation to refrain from sending Palestine National Council members to multilateral committees.

Summing up the last round of talks, Beilin emphasized the tangible change in the work of all the committees—water, environment, refugees, and arms control—in that the parties began discussing substance. One of the indications of the talks' seriousness was the decision to transfer funds for research, projects, and so forth. It was further decided that the next round of talks would be held in September, and that the economic committee would convene in Morocco, the environmental committee in Egypt, the water committee in China, the arms control committee in Russia, and the refugee committee in Tunis.

Beilin pointed out that unless Tunis grants an entry visa to every Israeli reporter who wants to cover the negotiations, the talks will not be held there. "If Arab countries fail to produce entry visas for every Israeli who wants to come, and if all they give is visas for a few delegation members, we will not come."

The findings of a Norwegian research institute's comparative survey on the condition of refugees in the territories versus the situation in Arab countries were released yesterday. The findings show that infant mortality in the territories has registered a significant drop. In 1990, there were 48 infant deaths per 1,000 births in the territories, compared with 40 in Jordan, 45 in Syria, 7.8 in Israel, and 15.4 among Israeli Arabs. The number of literate residents of the territories over the age of 15 is higher than in Syria and Egypt, but lower than in Jordan and Kuwait. Another finding: Refugees living in camps are better educated than those who live outside of the camps.

Arab Participation in 14 Jun Talks 'Guaranteed'

TA0106090993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Jun 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] The Arab countries and Palestinians' participation in the peace talks that are due to resume in Washington on 14 June is guaranteed, according to diplomatic sources in Cairo. They added that the meeting of the cordon states' foreign ministers in Amman next week is a mere formality expressing consent to the resumption of talks.

The sources further said that the Palestinians were appreciative of the Israeli decision to release 280 Palestinian detainees on the eve of the 'Id al-Adha festival, although they asked for additional Israeli gestures. Egyptian sources said that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is today the most moderate figure in the Palestinian leadership and that in most cases he is obliged to enforce his moderate views on the Palestinian leadership in the territories.

Jerusalem expects the Palestinian delegation to arrive in Washington for preliminary talks with the administration at the end of this week or the beginning of the next. Political sources believe that immediately after that, Israeli officials will be invited for talks in which the Americans will scrutinize for the first time the Israeli proposals for implementing interim arrangements in "Gaza First." [passage omitted]

Sarid Predicts 'Significant' Concessions

LD2905130093 Rabat MAP in English 1229 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Rabat, May 29 (MAP)—If Israel's security is guaranteed, Tel Aviv is ready to make significant territorial concessions, Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid told Moroccan LIBERAL magazine. Israel appreciates the role played by King Hassan II for the establishment of peace in the Middle East region, the Israeli minister said, underlining that Morocco will have a greater role to play, particularly in the Jewish state's relations with Syria and the Palestinians.

Suggests Referendum on Agreement

TA0106065293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said yesterday that peace agreement will be signed much sooner than the public believes. He suggested that a referendum be held before the approval of each agreement. Minister Sarid was speaking in a symposium sponsored by the Jerusalem Institute. The symposium dealt with the probability of a civil war.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that Beni Katzover, head of the Samaria Regional Council, said at the discussion that he believes some 30 percent of the settlers are able to take guns in their hands to oppose a withdrawal, but he also spoke against a civil war.

Editorial Warns Against U.S. Pressure

TA3005141793 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 30 May 93 p 2

[Editorial: "American Involvement Arouses Concern"]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, one of the leaders of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks in Washington, announced this weekend that the Palestinians have agreed to accept a State Department invitation to "preliminary talks" prior to the 10th round of deliberations with the Israeli delegation.

That meeting, it was said, should pave the way for the continuation of the talks, which were frozen due to the Palestinians' decision to stay away from the discussions with Israel because their demands on autonomy arrangements, etc., were not met.

Jerusalem responded favorably to the Palestinian decision, expressing the hope that it would lead to a continuation of the bilateral deliberations to advance the peace process. The announcement did not say on what Jerusalem is basing its embrace of the anticipated meeting in Washington between the Palestinians and the State Department heads, therefore we can only take this to be a heartfelt wish, and the appearance of the delegation in Washington should not be seen as signaling any breakthrough.

Furthermore, the active American involvement in the peace process does not necessarily assure us that the talks will continue under the rules decided on at the opening of the Madrid conference.

According to reports, the Palestinians plan to demand from the United States that they apply pressures on Israel to agree to accept their condition that "the document of principles" state that Israel is to withdraw from all the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem.

Not only that, but the Palestinians insist that it be decided that the interim arrangements are merely an advanced stage toward the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip whose capital is East Jerusalem. In other words, we can expect pressure, or in the best case, "good advice" from Washington, to make additional concessions in order to advance the peace process.

In view of the above, it is hard to welcome the Palestinian agreement to accept the American invitation because it is clear to all that Israel will not gain anything from that meeting.

In general, the more American involvement in the talks grows, the less the chance that we will be able to reach autonomy arrangements that will stand the test of the limits Israel set itself when it agreed to start deliberations on autonomy for Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip on a model that will prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state and any harm to Jerusalem's unity.

It is no secret that the Palestinians are very encouraged by the American involvement. They even exploit it to advance their own plans, which lead to the establishment of a Palestinian-PLO state between the sea and the Jordan River.

In view of the above, not only is there no room for expressing satisfaction with the Palestinians' agreement to leave for Washington, on the contrary, there is definitely room for concern over the active American involvement in the peace process.

There is therefore possibly room to make it clear to the United States that Israel will not agree to make any additional gestures, that it insists on continuing the Washington talks under the rules decided on the eve of the Madrid conference, and that the autonomy arrangements for Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will be decided for a period of five years without taking into account the demands that will lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

This is also true about Palestinian demands to grant political powers to the autonomy council that will be elected. It is better to be blunt now, before the demands or "good advice" to agree to make additional gestures to the Palestinians start to rain down on us.

We hope that the prime minister, who said in recent days that he has no intention of making further gestures, will stand behind what he said and will not acquiesce any further.

MK Eytan Submits Annexation Bill

TA3105084793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 May 93 p A7

[Report by parliamentary correspondent Gid'on Alon]

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Refa'el Eytan, Tzomet Movement chairman, yesterday submitted an private member's bill for annexing Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to Israel. The bill is aimed at preventing, through legislation, the handing over of parts of Eretz Yisra'el to foreign rule and the evacuation of Jewish settlements.

The bill also states that the Arabs residing in these territories will not be awarded full Israeli citizenship, but will hold their Jordanian citizenship. The Arab residents of the Gaza Strip will be allowed to choose any citizenship, except for an Israeli one.

In his bill, MK Eytan states that "the law, legislature, and administration of the State of Israel will apply to the territory west of the Jordan River that is under Israel's or the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] control. The bill authorizes the interior minister—following consultations with the justice minister and the approval of the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee—to issue regulations regarding the implementation of the bill and to determine transitional orders and instructions regarding the effect of regulations, decrees, administrative orders, rights, and duties [no end quotes as published].

Knesset Approves Extra Funds for Civil Administration

TA3105124293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 May 93

[Excerpt] The Knesset Finance Committee has approved the transfer of approximately 350 million shekels to the budget of the Civil Administration in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza for infrastructure development and job generation. Committee Chairman Gedalya Gal explained that the transfer will be financed by taxes paid by residents of the territories. It will help offset the impact of the closure and diminish the residents' desire to harm Israelis.

Likud Knesset Member Dan Tikhon charged committee members from the coalition with acceding automatically to government requests without regard for budget frameworks.

Our correspondent Arye Shaqed reports that the committee further approved an appropriation of 50 million shekels from the general reserve for investment in the development of sewage plants in the Arab and Druze sectors. It also added 15 million shekels to the Jerusalem Municipality's current budget. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Briefed on IDF Accidents, Closure Impact

TA3005155893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] In today's cabinet session, Minister Ora Namir again criticized the upsurge of accidents in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Namir recalled that since the last time she leveled criticism on this issue more accidents have occurred in the IDF. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister Yosi Sarid also criticized the IDF, especially because of the noncompletion of the investigation into the second Ze'elim accident [on 5 November 1992, when five soldiers of an elite unit were killed by a rocket that misfired]. The prime minister replied that he has already asked the military judge advocate to give priority to the completion of the investigation into the second Ze'elim accident.

During the cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Rabin also briefed the ministers about the paratroopers' accident in south Lebanon. Major General Yoram Ya'ir, head of the IDF Personnel Branch, briefed the ministers about the enlistment of underprivileged youths into the Army.

The ministers were told that since the beginning of the closure in the territories, the number of wanted men has fallen by 112. More than half have been apprehended; 14 were killed, and 30 crossed the border. The ministers were also told that, to date, 37,000 of the 45,000 workers who received licenses to work inside Israel have come to work.

PFLP Activists Appeal 3-Year Detention

TA3005114093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Two administrative detainees from the Qezi'ot detention facility have appealed to the High Court of Justice against their approximately three-year-long confinement without trial, without being apprised of the evidence against them, and without being charged. The two men—'Ali Faris al-Khatib, from Bi'r Zayt, and Ghassan Muhammad Jarrar, from Janin—had been slated for deportation a year ago due to their senior position in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], but their deportation orders were revoked.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that a lower court had rejected their detention appeals and prohibited the publication of the confidential evidence amassed against them. For that reason, they decided to appeal to the High Court of Justice.

Settlers Wound 2 Arab Women, Burn 2 Houses

TA3005113593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Two Arab women were wounded this morning by gunshots fired by Hebron settlers in the vicinity of the site where serviceman Shmu'el Erez was murdered on 28 May. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a group of settlers who arrived on the site of the murder was pelted with stones, according to them. In response, the settlers fired on the stone throwers and into local houses. The two wounded women were evacuated to Hebron's 'Aliya Hospital.

An hour earlier, settlers set fire to two houses near the site of Erez's murder. Hebron fire trucks extinguished the fire.

Hamas Cells Uncovered; Settlers Detained

TA3105195693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Several shots were fired this evening at a passing car. Nobody was hurt, and there was no damage. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police investigation shows that two people were probably involved in the shooting and that they escaped to the nearby village of Bayt Jala, which was placed under curfew. The firing occurred in Hashayish Street, and according to the couple in the vehicle, five shots were fired at them. Police investigators who rushed to the scene have so far found five slugs. Our correspondent notes that a month ago, two shots were fired at a Russian immigrant couple in the same area. In that incident, the man was hit in the shoulder.

The Shin Bet and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] recently uncovered several Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] cells in Judaea and Samaria. Twenty-five terrorists belonging to Hamas' military arm, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam were rounded up. All the detainees are residents of the Hebron region. M-16 submachine guns and ammunition were found in their possession. The terrorists are suspected of responsibility for the attack in Hebron in which First Sergeant Yuval Qatangi was killed and two other soldiers were wounded as well as shooting incidents involving soldiers and Israeli civilians in Judaea and Samaria, in which several soldiers were wounded.

[Jerusalem Israel Television in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 31 May reports: "Judaea District police detained for questioning three Jewish settlers following Army complaints about events in Hebron [on 30 May, in which two Arab women and a child were wounded by gunshots fired by settlers]. Our correspondent reports that two of the suspects are minors, who were released on bond after questioning. The third, who is not a minor, is being detained on suspicion of setting an Arab house on fire and of being linked to the shooting at Arabs."]

Two 'Terrorists' Killed, 1 Apprehended in Gaza

TA3005162793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Two terrorists were killed and another was apprehended in a clash with security forces in Gaza this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the deceased are Ibrahim 'Assur and Muhammad Sayyam, who are suspected of having carried out attacks against the security forces and Israeli targets in the Gaza Strip. The apprehended terrorist, Ra'id Abu-Hallaq, is also suspected of having participated in these attacks. The three were members of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad. They barricaded themselves inside a house in the Tuffah neighborhood after the security forces spotted them and sealed-off the area. The residents of the nearby buildings were evacuated. After the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' demand that the fugitives surrender was ignored, the soldiers opened fire. They killed two of the terrorists and apprehended the third. The three were found in possession of automatic weapons.

Stabbing in Jerusalem; Arab Killed by Civilian Guard

TA3105132493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] An Arab stabbed and slightly injured a young Israeli woman in the center of Jerusalem. Our police affairs correspondent reports that a 21-year-old Arab from the village of Qatannah attacked the girl at the lavatories of the Hapa'amon Building on Javets Street. The assailant was chased by civilians, and once they reached Tsiyon Square, he threw his bag at them and ran away. The police are searching for him now. The young woman received medical treatment on the scene and is now reconstructing the event with police investigators.

In a shooting incident north of Jerusalem, an Arab was killed and another wounded by gunshots fired by employees of an Israeli security company. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the Moqed-99 guards claim they had an argument with the passengers of two Arab cars. The passengers appear to be members of an East Jerusalem family. The Israeli security firm's car, which was driving behind a truck, was forced to stop. At that moment, several Arabs suddenly appeared, attacked them, and fled. The Israelis gave chase, firing several shots and wounding two men. One of them was evacuated in critical condition to al-Maqasid Hospital, where he died of his injuries. The other man, who was lightly wounded in the leg, was moved to Hadassah-Mount Scopus Hospital.

Labor-SHAS 'Alliance' Said Causing Meretz Disintegration

TA0106135593 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Jun 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The Price of a Portfolio"]

[Text] The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]-Meretz crisis, which began on 1 May with 'Ovadya Yosef demanding that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin oust Shulamit Aloni from the Education and Culture Ministry, ended 31 May with acquiescence to the demand. All other moves and consequences of the crisis are less important than this fact. The demand was accepted, and Aloni—just as Yosef and his agent in the government, Arye Der'i, had expected—was ousted from her party's most senior ministry.

SHAS has paid no price for getting what it wanted. Moreover, its members still brazenly gripe about "that woman" who dared react sharply to being sacrificed on the altar of the peace government's survival. Der'i's exclusive eight-year title to the Interior Ministry, both as director general and minister, was unaffected. When the next crisis erupts after charges have been filed against Der'i and his immunity lifted, he will be strengthened by his relations with the decisionmaking elements in Labor.

The central party of the government has paid no political price either. The transfer of the science portfolio to Meretz in return for the energy portfolio or the deposit of energy with one minister and the responsibility for Channel 2 television with another are insignificant. A public opinion poll surveying Israelis' acquaintance with past science ministers would produce replies from the realm of science fiction, revealing vast ignorance.

Although Rabin's personal and political authority suffered as the crisis stretched out like chewing gum, in the long run Labor will profit greatly from this crisis. While everyone was busy analyzing momentous questions such as the title and the content of the half-portfolio of quarter-culture, a much more crucial fact was firmly established. The other two parties—SHAS and Labor—forged an alliance and succeeded in unsettling Meretz's internal hierarchy. The most senior Meretz component, the Citizens Rights Movement, was deprived of the most senior portfolio in favor of the smallest component—Shinuy. The shock that this fact is bound to generate cannot be mellowed by the allocation of illusive seats on ministerial forums—Tzaban on the security cabinet, Sarid on the committee overseeing Shin Bet activities, and Aloni on the "limited committee briefed on the peace process." (If she believes in this function in a government in which Rabin trusts no one but himself, she is even more gullible than she was on the eve of the crisis).

Labor's double coup—first the decision to deport 415 Palestinians and now the ousting of Aloni—has virtually disintegrated Meretz and sapped its capacity to vie for a sizable chunk of the constituency. This—and not the portfolio—was the price Meretz paid Rabin and his rabbis. However, if these developments are indeed instrumental in promoting the peace process, especially in the wake of 'Ovadya Yosef's new ruling announced in last Saturday's sermon that the territories may be ceded to prevent bloodshed, the price may have been worth paying.

Request To Visit by Chile's Pinochet Rejected

TA3005050893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Israel has turned down a request by the former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet to come here on a visit. General Pinochet is currently Chile's defense minister and commander of its Army [as heard]. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem turned down his request to visit, saying he was persona non grata in Israel.

Envoy: UN Committee Membership 'Change in Standing'

TA3005103993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 30 May 93 p 1

[Report by New York-based correspondent Miryam Fuchs]

[Text] On 28 May, Israel was admitted in the UN Committee on Information, becoming a member of a standing UN committee for the first time.

Preliminary contacts with numerous member countries pursued by the Israeli delegation to the United Nations ensured their support for Israel's appeal to be admitted as committee member. Following the successful contacts, Israel submitted a formal request for membership in the Committee on Information, which does not depend on affiliation with a regional bloc.

In the course of the debate, the Israeli petition was fiercely attacked by Iran and Syria. The Syrian representative added that his remarks reflected the Arab countries' stand. Seven countries—Jordan, Cuba, Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, and Yemen—seconded Syrian and Iranian objections, while the Egyptian representative said at the debate that Syria did not represent the stand of every Arab country.

After the debate, committee Chairman Mansur Suhayl from Pakistan proposed that Israel's membership be endorsed without a vote. When none of the committee members raised a counterproposal, Israel was admitted without a vote.

The UN Committee on Information comprises 81 countries. The committee is in charge of the organizations' Information Department and is responsible for all UN publications. The UN Information Department has 18 information centers in various countries. Gad Ya'aqobi, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, has said that Israel's admittance as member in a permanent committee "reflects the change in Israel's standing at the United Nations."

New Cabinet Seen as Unlikely To Make Major Changes

JN3005065893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 May 93 p 1

["News analysis" by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Other than the obvious message of the Kingdom's continued commitment to the Middle East process, the make-up of the newly appointed Cabinet of Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and the terms of its mandate reassert its caretaker nature as a temporary government unlikely to introduce any major change in long-term national policies.

Unless the government uses its prerogative to amend the national Election Law, analysts and observers agree, the mandate of Dr. al-Majali's government will concentrate on pursuing established policies and programmes until November when the new Parliament convenes.

Two factors contribute to this conclusion. One, analysts maintain is the time limit—five months until November—and, two, Dr. al- Majali's choice of portfolios and appointees.

"This is a temporary government which has a specific purpose and that is to hold elections," a former minister told the Jordan Times. "It will not have time to introduce something new or to be innovative."

He and other analysts believe that Dr. al-Majali's decision not to appoint any deputy premiers and to upgrade several secretary-generals to the post of ministers indicated that he expected the ministers only to carry out instructions rather than formulate policies.

Exceptions to these are the appointments of Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar, a political science graduate from Oxford university, as information minister, and Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, a well-known economist and politician, as minister of state for prime ministry affairs.

Dr. al-Majali's Cabinet, observors say, has three teams of politicians and experts in three main areas: the peace process, the economy and elections.

One, headed by Dr. al-Majali himself in his capacity as foreign minister, will deal primarily with the Middle East peace talks. That team includes Dr. al-'Anani and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, both of whom were members of the Jordanian negotiating team in Washington.

The second team includes the ministers charged with continuing the country's economic and financial policies which are very unlikely to witness any change especially that the new member to the team, Finance Minister Sami Gammuh, is only expected to follow and apply the policies that were already set by his predecessor Basil Jardanah that mainly include fufilling the terms of agreements with the International Monetary Fund and other international lending agencies.

The third team, the most likely to introduce change, is the "elections" team, that would oversee the main task of the caretaker government.

Interior Minister Salamah Hammad, who supervised the last parliamentary elections in 1989 while serving as undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, is being supported by at least two ministers who have served at one point or another as legal advisors or senior officials at the ministry. The two are minister of State Ahmad al-'Aqayilah, who has served as secretary general of the Ministry of Interior and Minister of State for legal Affairs Khalid al-Zu'bi, who served as deputy governor at the ministry before he received a doctorate in public law and became an associate professor at University of Jordan.

Although King Husayn did not directly call for a change in the elections law in his letter of designation of Premier al-Majali that possibility was not ruled out either. Analysts believe that the King left that option open for the government and that the appointment of a minister of state for legal affairs—a new portfolio that seems to contradict with the Ministry of Justice—may indicate that a change of the law was possible.

Analysts also believe that Dr. al-Majali has appointed an elections team that can withstand political pressure if it called for a change in the Election Law.

"The new premier himself is known to be someone who can take tough decisions and his team for the elections are the kind of men who will execute such a change if needed," a well-placed former official said.

The fact that Dr. al-Majali did not need the blessing of the Lower House of Parliment and therefore did not try to include ministers from the different array of political orientations in the country may have contributed to a criticism of its makeup as "too bland."

Apart from new technocrats, most of the other ministers were described as "bureaucrats who will act as employees." What adds to this criticism is that the premier did not name a strong diplomat to the Foreign Ministry post preferring to add that post to his duties as prime minister and minister of defence.

"The premier looks to be juggling too many responsibilities and allocating less to others in his Cabinet," an analyst said, adding, however, that this was only a first impression and actual practice may bring more decentralisation of authority.

Profiles of New Ministers

JN3005064693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 May 93 p 3

[Profiles of the new members of the Cabinet as "available at press time Saturday, 29 May"]

[Text] Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Foreign Affairs 'Abd-al-Sa.am al-Majali aged 67, was born in al-Karak. He holds an M.D. from the Medical College, Syrian University, Damascus. Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali served as president of the University of Jordan, Minister of Health, Minister of Education, and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs. He was head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks.

Minister of Information Ma'n Abu-Nuwwar was born in al-Salt in 1928 and holds a Ph.D. in Middle East studies. He served in the Jordanian Armed Forces and was Director of Public Security Department (PSD) (1967), Ambassador to London, Mayor of Amman, Minister of Culture and Information (1973), Minister of Public Works (1979), Minister of Tourism (1980-1984).

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad al-'Anani was born in Halhul, near Hebron, in 1943. Dr. al-'Anani obtained bachelors degree in economics from the American University of Cairo in 1967, a masters degree in economics from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee in 1970 and his doctorate degree from the University of Georgia in 1975. He served as a researcher at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), head of the bank's Research and Studies Department, undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour, lecturer at the University of Jordan and the Banking Institute of Jordan, Minister of Supply and Minister of Labour. Dr. al-'Anani became president of the Royal Scientific Society before being named to the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks. He hosted a weekly television programme on the economy of Jordan on J.T.V.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Walid 'Asfur was born in 1932. Mr. 'Asfur obtained his bachelors degree in political science and economics from the American University of Beirut in 1956 and his master's degree from the United States in 1958. He served as president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, Amman Deputy Mayor, Chairman of the Board of the Jordan Cement Factories Company and Minister of Industry and Trade. Mr. 'Asfur was decorated with the Jordanian al-Kawkab Medal of the Second Order.

Minister of Youth 'Abdallah 'Uwaydat was born in al-Mafraq in 1948. He obtained bachelors degree in Arabic language and literature from the University of Baghdad in 1969, a diploma in education from the University of Jordan in 1972, a masters degree in education from the University of Jordan in 1977 and a masters degree in educational planning and a doctorate in social education from the University of Southern California. In 1984, Dr. 'Abdallah 'Uwaydat became Minister of Culture and Youth. From 1985-89 he was dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and the University of Jordan. Currently, he is associate professor at the university.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Yanal Hikmat was born in Amman in 1935. He studied at the Bishops School in Amman, obtained a bachelors' degree in economics from California University in 1956. Mr. Hikmat served at the Foreign Ministry, and later at the Royal Court as assistant Chief of the Protocol, then Chief of the Royal Protocol until 1985 when he was appointed Minister of Tourism in the government of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. Mr. Hikmat served as Tourism Minister with several consecutive governments.

Minister of Justice Ratib al-Wazani was born in Amman in 1934. He received a bachelor's degree in law from the University of Alexandria and a master's degree in law from the University of London, Mr. al- Wazani began his law career in 1957. He served as Attorney General of Hebron, Appeals Judge, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Justice as well as a High Court Judge and Minister of Justice.

Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz was born in al-Salt 1943. He received a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Baghdad in 1966 and served as an economics researcher and head of the Foreign Commerce Department at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) between 1966 and 1973. After obtaining his master's degree in economics from Britain in 1978, Mr. Fariz served as advisor for studies and research at CBJ until 1982. Between 1982 and 1984, he served as head of the Foreign Relations Department at the Bank. He also served as Ministry of Planning Undersecretary until his appointment in 1989 as a Planning Minister, and later as minister of Industry and Trade. Again in 1991 he was appointed Minister of Planning.

Minister of Culture Mahmud al-Samrah was born in al-Tanturah, Palestine in 1924. Dr. al-Samrah obtained his bachelor's degree in arts from Cairo University in 1950 and a doctorate from London University in 1958. He was a professor of literary criticism at the University of Jordan and became Dean of the Faculty of Arts in 1968. Later he became president of the University and then served as Minister of Culture with several governments. Dr. al-Samrah was decorated with al-Istiqlal Medal of the First Order in 1974.

Minister of State Ahmad al-'Aqayilah was born in Ma'an in 1932. Mr. al-'Aqayilah holds a bachelors degree in Arabic and and education diploma. He served as an undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Interior. Previously he worked as a teacher in Ma'an, the West Bank and Saudi Arabia. Mr. al-'Aqayilah served as Director of the Education Departments in Ma'an, Hebron, al-Balqa', Irbid and Amman. He has also worked as an advisor at the Jordanian embassy in Kuwait. He was decorated with al-Istiqlal Medal of the Second Order and the Moroccan al-Masirah al-Khadrah Medal.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Abbadi was born in Amman in 1943. He holds a Doctorate degree in Islamic studies from al-Azhar University in Cairo. Dr. al-'Abbadi worked previously as a teacher, a general advisor for preaching and religious counselling, a lecturer at the University of Jordan, Dean of the Studies Affairs Deanship at the university, Secretary General of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and head of the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation. He is the author of numerous books on Islamic Shari'a, education and economy.

Minister of Finance Sami Qammuh was born in Jordan in 1940. He obtained a bachelor's degree in commerce from the American University of Beirut in 1962 and a masters in finance and economy from Syracuse University in New York in 1967. Mr. Qammuh served as an economic advisor at the Jordanian embassy in Cairo, Jordan's envoy to the Cairo-based Council of Arab Economic Unity, a member of the Board of Directors of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, a lecturer at the University of Jordan, Director of the General Budget Department, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Dar al-Sha'b Publishing Company, and head of the Amman based Middle East Insurance Company.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sat'an al-Hasan was born in Irbid in 1939. In addition to being member of the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, Mr. al-Hasan has served as the Kingdom's ambassador to Belgium and Tunisia. He holds a Licence De Droit from Damascus University.

Minister of Social Development Muhammad al-Suqur was born in al- Tafilah 1936. He obtained his bachelor's degree in social and philosophical studies from Damascus University in 1960, a masters in economics and social planning from Swansea University in the United Kingdom in 1976 and an advanced social planning diploma from the same University in 1976-77. Dr. al-Suqur obtained his doctorate in sociology from Egypt. He worked as a teacher in Ibrid and was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development, before being seconded to the Saudi Ministry of Social Development. He also worked as director of the Planning and Development Department at the Ministry of Labour and as Dean of the Social Service College in Amman. Before becoming Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development, Dr. al-Suqur worked as an expert with the United Nations for a four-year tenure. In 1986, he established the National Aid Fund (NAF) and became its director general and in 1987 became secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development. Dr. al- Suqur currently works as part time lecturer at the University of Jordan.

Minister of Transport Salman al-Tarawinah was born in al- Husayniyah, al-Karak. He received his law degree from the University of Damascus and his masters in public administration from the University of Southern California. Mr. al-Tarawinah served as legal advisor and assistant general director at the Income Tax Department, before becoming General Director in 1984. He has also served as General Director of the Budget Department and Secretary General of the Audit Bureau.

Minister of Labour Khalid al-Ghizawi was born in Ma'an in 1939. He obtained his bachelors degree in physics from the University of Baghdad, a diploma in education from the University of Jordan, and a masters in educational administeration and supervision from the University of Jordan. Mr al-Ghizawi served as Secretary General of the Ministry of Education for Administration.

Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal was born in the West Bank town of 'Anabta in 1933. He obtained his bachelors, masters in business administration and doctorate (1961) in chemistry from the universities of Minnesota and Pittsburgh. Dr. Kamal worked for six years in chemical research with a U.S. firm, nine years at King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran as a professor and dean of the sciences and one year at Princeton University in New Jersey. He was Dean of Sciences at the University of Jordan for two years, dean of Agriculture for four years, vice president of the Sciences Faculty for one year, and vice-president of al-Yarmuk University for two years. Dr. Kamal was seconded to the Bahraini government to work for four years as President of the University of Bahrain. At present he is a professor of chemistry at the University of Jordan.

Minister of Health 'Abd-al-Rahim Malhas was born in Amman in 1937. He obtained a bachelor of science in 1958, an M.D. in 1963 in surgery from the American University of Beirut. Dr. Malhas served at the Royal Medical Services Hospital from 1966-68 and was responsible for evacuation of patients from Ramallah Hospital in 1967. He also worked as director of al-'Aqabah General Hospital in 1970. Dr. Malhas has been a surgeon at Malhas Hospital in Amman from 1975 to date. He holds a two-dan black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

More Ministers Profiled

JN3105072293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 May 93 p 3

[Profiles of cabinet ministers "unavailable at press time Saturday evening"]

[Text] Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam al-Sakit was born in al-Salt in 1944. He received a bachelors degree in economics and political science from Baghdad University in 1966. In 1976 he obtained a doctorate from Oxford University. He assumed senior government posts, including Director of Research at the Central Bank of Jordan, Director of the Royal Scientific Society's Economic Department and Economic Adviser to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan. Dr. al-Sakit also served as Director General of the Pension Fund, Secretary General of the Royal Court and Minister of Agriculture. He was also appointed as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jordan Cement Factories Company, a post which he retained until his appointment Saturday. Dr. al-Sakit authored several studies and published research papers on foreign aid to Jordan and science and technology in Jordan. He is an active member on the boards of various economic and educational institutions, including the CBJ, the World Affairs Council, the Amman National University's Board of Trustees and the Washington-based International Development Association.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Muhammad Mahdi al-Farhan was born at Nu'aymah in the Irbid governorate in 1936. He obtained a bachelor's degree in economics at the American University of Beirut in 1965, worked at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and obtained master's and doctorate degrees in economy from Birmingham University. Dr. al-Farhan served in several positions including Deputy Director of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and director General of the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) in 1984. He later served as Director General of the Social Security Corporation, Director General of the Customs Department and Director General of the Jordanian investments Corporation until his appointment as minister.

Minister of Interior Salamah Hammad was born in al-Rumayli, al-Jizah district in 1944. He obtained a bachelor's degree in law from Baghdad, a diploma of public administration from Paris and a diploma of local administration from the Sorbone University. Before his appointment as Minister, Mr. Hammad worked as Ministry of Interior Secretary General from 1989. Mr Hammad headed a special committee in 1990 to look after the evacuees. He held senior posts at the Ministry of Interior, including sub-district governor, district governor of al-'Aqabah, Director of the Nationality and Foreigners Department at the Foreign Ministry. Mr. Hammad supervised the 1989 parliamentary elections and served on the membership of several ministerial committees, such as the Awqaf council and the state property committees. Mr. Hammad was awarded Jordan's Independence and al-Kawkab Medals of the Second Order.

Minister of Supply Radi Ibrahim was born in Kitim, Irbid in 1942. He obtained his bachelor's degree in commerce from Cairo University in 1965. He served as al-Karak governor from 1992, until he was named Minister of Supply Saturday. Mr. Ibrahim also woked as Secretary General of the Supply Ministry from 1989 until 1992. He also held senior posts at the Ministries of Industry and Trade and Supply. Mr. Ibrahim was awarded Jordan's al-Kawkab Medal of the Third Order.

Minister of Communications Tariq al-Suhaymat was born in al-Karak in 1936. He holds a degree in medicine from London. In 1962 he joined the Armed Forces Medical Services. Dr. al-Suhaymat established the Kidney Transplant Unit at al-Husayn Medical Centre, remained its director until 1987 when he left the Armed Forces as a Major General to a private clinic. Dr. al-Suhaymat received Jordan's Independence and al-Kawkab Medals of the Second Order and the Medal of Military Merit of the First Order for his medical achievements.

Minister of Education and Higher Education Kalid al-'Umari was born in Dayr Yusuf in Irbid in 1942. He obtained a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the American University of Beirut in 1964, and a doctorate in educational management and supervision in 1977. He worked as a teacher of mathematics at the Ministry of Education schools, a school headmaster and school supervisor in Ma'an, Jarash and Amman from 1964 to 1974. In 1977 he was appointed principal of Huwwarah Community College for one year, then joined al-Yarmuk University as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Education. Later Dr. al-'Umari headed the Development and Planning Department. He also became director of Admission and Registration and then director of the Continuing Education and Community Development Department at the university. Later he headed the Students Affairs Department. Dr. al-'Umari was a visiting scholar of Wisconsin University in 1986 and later at Kuwait University. He served as an educational advisor in several Arab countries.

Minister of State for Legal Affairs Khalid al-Zu'bi was born in al-Ramtha in 1944. He obtained a bachelor's and master's degrees from Cairo University in 1968 and 1970. In 1984, he received a doctorate in law from 'Ayn Shams University. Dr. al-Zu'bi worked as Provincial Governor at the Interior Ministry in 1971 and as a district governor at the ministry until 1985. He joined the University of Jordan's teaching staff and became Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Law and later headed the General Law Department for about two years. He worked as part-time legal consultant at the Foreign Ministry from 1985 until 1991. Dr. al-Zu'bi authored several books on law, including many laws and legislations in force at the Ministries of Interior and Municipal and Rural Affairs.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Bassam Qaqish was born in al-Salt in 1934. He joined the Jordanian Armed Forces in 1951, received masters degree in military sciences from Taiwan in 1952, served as Commander of the Royal Engineering Corp from 1973-1975 and later served at Army Headquarters as Assistant to the Army Chief of Staff for Planning, and as inspector General of the Armed Forces. He retired in 1984 and worked as a Director General of the Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company and then President of the Jordanian Ports Corporation in 1986, later he became President of the al-'Aqabah Region Authority.

Minister of Housing and Public Works Khalaf al-Hawari was born in al-Karak in 1941. He graduated from Baghdad University with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1965. He joined the Royal Engineering Corp. for some time and worked as a construction engineer at the Ministry of Public Works from 1966 to 1969. Mr. al-Hawwari headed the Maintenance and

Traffic Department at the Ministry of Public Works during the period 1973-1982. He also served as Director of Public Works Departments in al-Karak, al-Balqa' and Amman from 1982 until 1984. He later was named Ministry of Public Work's Undersecretary, a post which he retained from 1985 until 1989

Buwayz Calls Libyan Pilgrimage 'Grave Political Mistake'

NC0206112193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1020 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified correspondents; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] On 'Id al-Adha, 192 Libyan pilgrims visited Jerusalem, creating a major furor. What is your comment on this? Has the Foreign Ministry received any clarification?

[Buwayz] We received no clarification or warning about the operation, which we believe constitutes a grave political mistake at a delicate time. The Libyan move stabs at, (?is a blow) to Arab solidarity, especially when intransigence characterizes the Israeli position on the peace negotiations. We should have avoided such bombastic acts, which will inevitably harm things.

[Correspondent] You mean in the bilateral peace negotiations?

[Buwayz] Naturally, the operation reflects Arab fragmentation, which we did not need, even if some of the pilgrims made conflicting statements and even if some parties see the move as a means to convey certain messages or positions to Israel.

[Correspondent] How does Your Excellency (?explain) some statements urging accelerating coexistence among the peoples of the region (?including) the people of Israel? Are the negotiations lagging behind [words indistinct]?

[Buwayz] We believe the step lies outside any logical framework for the peace process and negotiations. It is a haphazard step with negative implications for the peace talks.

[Correspondent] Do you think the Amman meeting (?will establish a united) position?

[Buwayz] I believe the Amman meeting will discuss the issue. The Libyan visit is negative. It is ceremonial in nature. It should not be given much importance, because it represents neither the Arab will nor a serious Arab position or inclination.

[Correspondent] Minister, do you expect the cosponsors of the peace talks to extend invitations before the meeting in Amman on Sunday [6 June]?

[Buwayz] We have no information on the timing of the invitations, but I believe we will be invited to a 10th round. In Amman, we will discuss whether to accept the invitation.

Buwayz Discusses Israeli Document, Peace Talks

NC0106154593 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 29 May 93 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Managing Editor Faysal Salman and correspondent Ibrahim al-Ami; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SAFIR] Your Excellency, we begin our discussion with the following question: How true is the accusation attributed to you concerning the leaking of the Israeli working paper to AL-SAFIR?

[Buwayz] It is obvious that the responsibility cannot be shouldered by one team. Several parties have had access to this document. These parties include the Israeli side, which presented the document, the Lebanese negotiating team, the Lebanese military negotiating team, the president, the prime minister, the foreign minister, and many other quarters.

[AL-SAFIR] You have been quoted as saying that Arab sides leaked the document to AL-SAFIR.

[Buwayz] When I was asked how the document was leaked to the press, I said: The Foreign Ministry and many other quarters have had access to this document. I also emphasized that the translation of the published document was not the Foreign Ministry's translation.

[AL-SAFIR] Do you mean that the text that was published in AL-SAFIR is not the verbatim text of the document received by the Foreign Ministry?

[Buwayz] This document was not translated accurately and the English version is the only verbatim text. I may repeat that the published document was not translated by the Foreign Ministry. It is identical to the copy we received.

[AL-SAFIR] Your suggestion that Israel could be a possible source does not mean that AL-SAFIR obtained the document from Israel either directly or indirectly, does it?

[Buwayz] I can say that it is very difficult to know the real source that gave the document to AL-SAFIR, because as the saying goes "a secret shared by more than two people stops being a secret." I believe that this matter stopped being a secret when at least 15 parties had access to it. [passage omitted]

[AL-SAFIR] Your Excellency, let's talk about the issue of negotiations. You have told AL-SAFIR that you expect that progress will be made during the ninth round. Later, you sounded more optimistic during the ninth round of negotiations. Do you still hold this view?

[Buwayz] No. I have a clear-cut statement in this regard. The ninth round did not produce what was expected of it. It should have produced something justifying the convening of a 10th round of negotiations. We were waiting to move to a stage of practical steps. Actually, the ninth round did not represent the necessary standard.

Therefore, any proposal for holding the 10th round must be preceded by genuine preparations. All that the ninth round failed to achieve must be the focus of exchanges behind the scenes to ensure the minimum limit of clear guarantees, or else any decision to participate in the 10th round would be quite difficult.

[AL-SAFIR] Where is the flaw? And who is responsible for the obstruction? Is it the United States or Israel?

[Buwayz] Both are responsible for what has happened. The U.S. role should not be confined to technical or logistical matters. The United States must get involved in the core of negotiations. The United States has not played this role to date. We believe that the U.S. mediation role should surpass these limits and engage in the details of the subjects of discussion.

[AL-SAFIR] Did the United States bring pressure to bear on Lebanon to make it respond more positively to the Israeli proposal?

[Buwayz] Absolutely not. The U.S. side is asking us continuously to adopt a positive attitude toward the course of negotiations. [passage omitted]

[AL-SAFIR] What do you expect of the Amman conference?

[Buwayz] The conferees will evaluate the previous rounds and the Arab stand on developments. The conference will discuss the usefulness of participation in new rounds if we are invited to attend. If the Amman meeting takes place in the absence of any serious developments or realities giving rise to hope and encouraging us, any decision to participate in the 10th round of talks would be very difficult. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Officials on Libyan Pilgrims, Other Issues

NC0106070293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah addressed a message yesterday in which he greeted the people of the south and western al-Biqa', who are worthy of celebrating 'Id al-Adha. He touched on topical issues, particularly developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

The secretary general expressed surprise and pain at the massacre being committed in Bosnia under the noses and sponsorship of the international community. He remarked that thousands of human lives are being wasted by the aggressive Serbs in the eastern areas of the country. He called on all Muslims to ponder over events in Bosnia, particularly since the United States has withdrawn many of its threats and much of its propaganda.

Nasrallah remarked that the weak have no faith in a world of wolves. Only your sons, your kinsfolk, and your arms and rifles will defend you, he said, adding: Do not expect the butcher to give you back any of your rights. Those who wager on restoring the rights, lands, and sanctities through negotiations and cajoling the United States are mistaken and suspect, he said.

The Hizballah secretary general called on all to return to themselves to bring about revival and unity in bravely facing their destiny.

For his part, [Hizballah Political Bureau member] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli criticized anti-Muslim practices in some Islamic countries. In Mecca, Muslims are being sacrificed instead of sheep if they denounce arrogance, he said.

In his 'Id al-Adha sermon, delivered at the Amir al-Mu'minin in Burj al-Barajinah yesterday, al-Tufayli said: Libya's executioners sent a delegation of their agents to Jerusalem instead of Mecca under the excuse that the Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] rulers would have prevented them from landing at their airports. This is a great crime, more serious than the visit to the occupied territories by the dead and buried al-Sadat. The visit has been planned for a long time. It was made upon an agreement among the Libyan imbecile, the Americans, Egypt's rulers, and the Jews to bring about normalization, al- Tufayli said. [passage omitted]

Nasrallah on Israeli Proposals

NC0106111193

[Editorial Report] Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic on 24 May publishes on page 3 an approximately 5,000-word interview with Hizballah's reelected secretary general, Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah, by Faysal Sulayman and Ibrahim al-Amin in the "shaykh's office in the Southern Suburb."

Commenting on Hizballah's third annual congress, Nasrallah remarks that it is natural to renew the cadres, leadership, structure, and spirit of the party as a "struggling movement that resists the Zionist enemy."

He affirms that the party's participation in the Chamber of Deputies "does not mean that we have recognized the regime, because we are part of the powers that believe in the need to change the existing system." He explains that this participation is a step toward realizing the desired goals, primarily "hostility toward Israel, resisting occupation, and facing up to the Zionist menace."

Asked whether this participation might lead to taking part in the Council of Ministers, he replies that the matter is under "constant consideration, depending on conditions and circumstances; if we sense that participation might benefit the resistance and the people, we will take part."

Commenting on Israel's terms for implementing UN Resolution 425, Nasrallah emphasizes that "the Israeli enemy cannot ask the resistance for a truce, because the resistance is the party to the ongoing battle with it and not a negotiating party." "The resistance is a direct act of struggle and a counterreaction to occupation," he said, affirming that "this counterreaction will continue as long as there is occupation."

Nasrallah believes that the "dangers" of conciliation with Israel are far more serious than those of war, because "the enemy will try to devastate Lebanon economically." Elaborating on this point, he says that if and when conciliation occurs, the market will witness competition over products and necessities. He says: "Being more competitive and cheaper, Israeli products will be in demand. Would this not pave the way for foreign companies, or Jewish companies using Lebanese fronts, to control the arena?" Nasrallah adds that the party does not trust the Jews, because "they do not seek peace, security, and stability; their scheme is about domination, hegemony, and expansion."

Nasrallah adds that "Israel will seek to sow sedition by all means possible to ruin the social structure of an already weak Lebanon," because there are some Lebanese who are prepared to work with Israel to gain political control.

Asked about his reaction to the Israeli document, Nasrallah first reiterates that AL-SAFIR's publication of the document was a "major nationalistic act," because it is important for the Lebanese to know how their rulers handle such issues.

Nasrallah believes "it is an exaggeration to talk about positive aspects in the Israeli document, because insisting on blanketing the Israeli proposals reflects a tendency to mislead the Lebanese." He stresses that the Lebanese and all active powers should be alert to what goes on inside the negotiations hall. "If the ruling group is given free reign to act according to their beliefs, we will wake up in the middle of a catastrophe: another 17 May agreement in different clothing," he said.

He stresses that the people should have the courage to object strongly to everything, including the negotiating process. "We do not turn our backs to the negotiating process; we monitor it and follow up on it," he says. He affirms that "the Lebanese authorities are absolutely not authorized, neither at the legal nor at the popular levels, to pay the aggressor a price for its occupation." He emphasizes that "the Chamber of Deputies must be informed of all that goes on, because the matter concerns all the Lebanese people."

On his assessment of the government's performance, Nasrallah states that the government has not accomplished anything. He explains that the stability cited by the government as an achievement could have been achieved by any other government for that matter and that this stability can be attributed to regional guarantees represented by the Syrian presence in the region. He adds that "the gap is widening between the rich and poor" and that "Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri does not have the necessary socioeconomic project capable of resolving the country's problems." He says: "The suggested plans and projects are based on the assumption that there will be a conciliation with Israel,"

Asked whether he believes that the time is ripe for a government reshuffle, Nasrallah explains that "replacing ministers will not solve the problem." He stresses that the government's program and approach must be discussed. He adds, however, that the government should be given ample time before being brought to account by the people's deputies.

Touching on the issue of the Islamic-Christian dialogue in Lebanon, Nasrallah emphasizes the need for to determine the basis of this dialogue and the parties to it so that it can be an all- embracing dialogue.

Asked about Hizballah's stand on the forthcoming elections to choose a chairman of the Higher Shiite Islamic Council, Nasrallah says that the party seeks Shiite consensus on the issue. On whether Hizballah has a candidate for the position, Nasrallah affirms that "Hizballah has no candidate for the Shiite Council's chairmanship."

Al-Rantisi: Delegation Signed Secret Agreements

TA2805151593 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 May 93 pp 1, 7

[By QUDS PRESS correspondent]

[Text] Marj al-Zuhur—Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, official spokesman of the Palestinian deportees in south Lebanon, has accused the Palestinian negotiating delegation of concluding secret agreements with Israel on implementation of the self-administration plan in the occupied territories.

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, Dr. al-Rantisi added that "what is taking place in the political arena with regard to the negotiations, as well as the shuttle trips, is meant to produce those agreements in such a way as to be acceptable to the masses." Dr. al-Rantisi described calls by Palestinian political groups in the occupied territories to curb some of the manifestations of the Palestinian intifadah as a conspiracy of the expected self-administration.

Commenting on the recently published joint statement in which Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, and Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian side to the talks, denied there are differences between them, al-Rantisi said that "Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi is acting intelligently and wants to retreat, but with justifications. He is giving the pretexts in advance." Al-Rantisi added that "Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi wants to go back to the negotiating table but at the expense of others, not at his own personal expense."

Hizballah Radio Says Saudis Show Subservience to U.S.

NC2905083093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0550 GMT 29 May 93

[Political commentary: "The Disavowal of the Infidels"]

[Excerpts] If monotheism, along with other religious rites, constitutes the essence of pilgrimage, the ceremony marking the disavowal of the infidels has become one of the important duties of the visitors to God's sacred house. It reflects the faithful's rejection of global powers, chief among which is the United States, the great satan. The call by Imam Khomeyni, may God sanctify his soul, to observe the day of disavowal emphasizes the Muslims' rejection of all forms of servitude and their determination to confront the schemes that primarily target Islam. [passage omitted]

The measures adopted by the Saudi authorities yesterday to prevent the pilgrims from declaring their disavowal of the infidels fall within the context of submission to the orders of those who fear the voice of Islam. Were it not for the wisdom of the leaders of Islamic Iran and the pilgrims' compliance with their calls, a new bloody massacre would have taken place and the hands of the Saudi troops would have again been stained by the blood of innocent people.

The Saudi rulers' behavior shows that they constantly antagonize the genuine Muhammadan Islam and further demonstrates their subservience to the Americans. The attitude they occasionally brag about concerning their good relations with the neighboring states is only a facade behind which lies an old, blind spite against anything to do with Islam. The ruler of Hejaz brought in foreign military troops, in a direct threat to the Islamic revolution, after Iraq failed to fulfill the enemies' goals, thus enabling Saudi Arabia to play the role that Saddam Husayn failed to play. But the blessed revolution under the wise and sane leadership of Khamene'i knows of these dangers and is ready with its military forces and masses, who are loyal to the line of Imam Khomeyni, may God sanctify his soul, and his successor. No power, be it a planner or an agent, can stand in the way of the overwhelming current triggered by our late imam, may God sanctify his soul. The Islamic revolution will restore its glory, God willing, and will seize the rights of the oppressed people on earth, paving the way for the appearance of the great imam, may God speed his advent, to set up a state of justice and fill the world with justice and equality, instead of injustice and oppression.

Shaykh Sha'ban Condemns Ban

LD2905100393 Tehran IRNA in English 0739 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Tripoli, May 29, IRNA—Leader of the Lebanese Islamic Tawhid (Unification) Movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban castigated Saudi rulers for banning the "deliverance from pagans" rally, scheduled in Mecca Thursday. Addressing worshippers at Friday congregational prayers in this northern Lebanese town, he said that instead of banning the rally, Saudi officials should have carried out the ceremony themselves.

He termed the move by the Saudis as a U.S.-engineered plot and stressed that Saudi rulers had bestowed their country to the Americans. Shaykh Sha'ban also criticised rulers of certain Muslim countries for rendering financial assistance to the U.S. Army and to other western countries.

Junblatt Discusses Refugees, Israeli Withdrawal

NC2905155793 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 May 93

[Excerpts] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party and minister for refugee affairs, has emphasized that it is necessary to provide full economic assistance in order to complete the repatriation of the refugees to their homes.

In an interview with the magazine AL-NIDA', Junblatt announced: Before supporting them politically, we must assist them economically. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the negotiations, Junblatt said: We want UN Security Council Resolution 425 to be implemented, meaning the return of the south in the context of certain arrangements. In light of such an Israeli withdrawal, we, the Lebanese Government, as a Lebanese security apparatus, must prevent cross-border anti-Israeli operations from Lebanese territory. Until this happens, however, we have the right to continue the effort to remove the occupation forces and demand that the world community to shoulder its responsibility in this respect. Syria also has the right to demand an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Nevertheless, complications continue.

Regarding the document published by AL-SAFIR, Junblatt remarked: I have no idea about this issue. At any rate, I believe the publication of this document is an internal matter—part of the domestic maneuvers. If you want to change the cabinet, say it plainly. Is it necessary to leak it to the newspapers? [passage omitted]

SLA's Lahd, Israel's Lubrani Address Muslims

NC0206084493 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0700 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Excerpt] South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander General Antoine Lahd, accompanied by Uri Lubrani, Israeli Government coordinator for Lebanese affairs; General Gabi Ashkenazi; and Colonel Shlomo Hassun, visited the Druze community in Hasbayya and the leaders of the Muslim community in the Marj 'Uyun area yesterday and extended greetings on the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

Gen. Lahd expressed hope that the peace talks between Israel and the Arab states, particularly with Lebanon, will be successful.

Gen. Ashkenazi thanked the people in the area for their efforts to achieve peace and stability. He hoped that total peace will be achieved by the end of the year and that the congratulations on the next 'Id will have more meaning for all parties.

Lubrani spoke about the negotiations in Washington on the Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, and Jordanian tracks. He described them as complicated, adding that no progress can be made on one track without the others because the problems are interlinked, and this does not permit separating them. Lubrani called on all those who believe in peace to be patient and not to despair, because one cannot backtrack from the road to peace. Those who support the talks must have a broad outlook and complete faith in what they do.

Lubrani affirmed that the differences between Israel and Lebanon are wide, but one point is clear: Israel has no ambitions regarding Lebanese territory or natural resources. Israel is not seeking water, oil, gold, or anything of this sort in Lebanon. We only want one thing: stability along the borders between us so that no Israeli or Lebanese forces are required to guard them. We still disagree with the Lebanese delegation on this point. The Lebanese delegation wants the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 without discussing the solution of other problems, whereas this point constitutes a very small part of the peace process that we want to accomplish.

Lubrani hinted that Lebanon is being subjected to non-Lebanese pressure, which obstructs any progress on this path. Therefore, he said, Israel is determined to maintain the present situation in the security zone because any change would affect the peace process. He affirmed that Israel will not abandon any friend or citizen in this area to the unknown. We will not ignore anyone as part of the peace that we want to achieve. [passage omitted]

Amal Claims Attack on Position in South

NC0206101193 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces shelled Qabrikha and Tulin at dawn today. Last night, they continued their attacks against villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah, shelling Jarju', Mlita, and al- Luwayzah.

The Amal Movement has announced that in the early hours of this morning, one of its groups attacked a position jointly held by the enemy and its agents in al-Qantarah. A 30-minute battle ensued in which automatic weapons and rockets were used. Direct hits were scored on the position and its personnel.

'Sources' Deny Jews Refused Exit Visas

JN3005210093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 May 93

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] In Damascus, political and press sources have denied that Syria no longer grants exit visas to Syrian Jews. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had voiced his disapointment at Syria's failure to make good on its promise to permit Syrian Jews to leave the country. A number of U.S. senators had also announced that no Syrian Jew has been issued with an exit visa since September 1992. More on the Syrian position by our Damascus correspondent Sana' al-Imam:

[Begin recording] [Al-Imam] Informed Syrian circles today denied rumors that Syria was banning Syrian Jews from leaving the country. The state-controlled TISHRIN daily today charged that Israel was lining up the world Zionist lobby behind an anti-Syrian slander drive purporting that the Syrian Government has reversed a decision to allow Jewish citizens to travel abroad like other Syrians. None of the Syrian Jews will go to Israel, but are opting for the United States, Canada, or Venezuela, and, the sources add, the Syrian Jews will not sever their ties with their homeland. This is especially so because their standard of living abroad compares unfavorably with their standard back in Syria.

Meanwhile, Ibrahim Hamrah, the Musawi community's rabbi in Syria has spoken to Radio Monte Carlo:

[Hamrah] His excellency the president's decision permitting travel for members of the Musawi community in Syria still stands. This subject has produced quite a flap oversees. Reports that Syrian Jews have been banned from travelling outside the country are untrue. If in the past few months there have been certain delays, these are due to red tape, pure and simple.

[Al-Imam] According to the latest available figures, out of 4,000 Syrian Jews, 2,600 have left the country. [end recording]

Rabbi Says No Change in Procedures

JN3105160593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1514 GMT 31 May 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 31 May (SANA)—Ibrahim Abu-Hamra, rabbi of the Musawi community in Syria, has emphasized that travel procedures for members of the Syrian Musawi community have not changed. He said that Syrian Jews are Syrian citizens and enjoy the same rights as all other citizens.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti daily AL-WATAN, Abu-Hamra said: I say to all those who interfere in the internal affairs of the Syrian Musawi community that the members of that community enjoy all their rights, and they will not allow anyone to make them a target or a means to be used by any foreign media.

Abu-Hamra expressed the belief that a great number of Syrian Jews will soon return to their motherland from abroad. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad, al-Hirawi Discuss Arab Issues Over Phone

JN0106202293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a telephone call from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, during which the Lebanese president congratulated him on the blessed 'Id al-Adha. The president thanked him for the phone call.

The phone conversation revolved around issues of mutual concern, as well as Arab issues.

Defense Minister Visits Unit in Lebanon

JN2905182493 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Upon the instructions of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense, accompanied by Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff, this morning visited one of our combat units operating in Lebanon.

Upon his arrival at the unit's command, Lt. Gen. Talas was welcomed by the commander of the Syrian Arab troops operating in Lebanon, who holds the rank of major general; the unit commander, who also holds the rank of major general; several senior officers from the unit; as well as a large crowd of brother fighters.

Lt. Gen. Mustafa Talas delivered a speech on the occasion. He began by relaying the greetings of leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad to the fighters, as well as his wishes of success to them in the performance of their pan-Arab missions, which promote and consecrate the ideological role of the Syrian Arab Army. He noted the role played by our valiant Armed Forces operating in fraternal Lebanon in ending civil strife there. He also praised their confrontation of the 1982 Israeli invasion and the efforts they have made to safeguard the unity of the Lebanese people as well as Lebanon's territorial integrity. Furthermore, he paid tribute to the endeavors they have made to thwart the enemies' schemes and attempts to obliterate Lebanon's Arabism and identity and impose their will on it.

Lt. Gen. Talas added: Fraternal Lebanon is currently enjoying security and stability, thanks to the fraternal aid extended to it by al-Asad's Syria, which has done its utmost to enable Lebanon to recuperate and play its natural role in the Arab and international arenas.

Lt. Gen. Talas then spoke about the Middle East peace process, saying: Syria, under struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, is waging the peace battle, proceeding from its pan-Arab and national constants. As leader al-Asad emphasized, Syria is concerned for peace and for ridding the region of war. Syria, the president also noted, has endorsed the bases of the peace process and done a great deal to advance the peace process, whereas Israel has not offered anything to advance the peace process.

Concluding his speech, Lt. Gen. Talas urged the brother fighters to always remain alert, and to promote training and preparedness so that our Armed Forces may enjoy the highest degree of combat preparedness, and so that the enemies' attempts to breach our steadfastness may be thwarted, epitomizing the immortal slogan: We should aspire for either martyrdom or victory.

Lt. Gen. Talas and the delegation accompanying him left the unit command after being accorded a warm send-off amidst chants by the fighters, who praised the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its secretary general, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad.

Commentary: Additional U.S. Guarantees Needed

JN2905143693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said the United States will ask the parties to the peace talks to hold a new round in Washington in June. He thus reaffirmed his country's commitment to the role of a full partner in the talks.

Everybody has acknowledged that the ninth round did not achieve any progress, thanks to Israel's continued intransigence and the Tel Aviv rulers' refusal to comply with Security Council resolutions and the bases of the Madrid conference. It is important, however, to conduct an objective assessment of the peace process in light of the constant pan-Arab principles emphasized by the Arab foreign ministers during all their previous meetings, and to make the U.S. sponsor face its commitments and responsibilities.

The peace talks are being held on U.S. territory in response to an initiative largely fashioned by the United States. After one and a half years of futile negotiations, the talks are today in jeopardy. The U.S. role in the talks to date has been all but absent, while the Israelis are creating more and more obstacles to progress.

Foreign ministers of the Arab states involved in the peace process have decided to hold a coordination meeting in Amman on 6 June. Topping their agenda will be an assessment of the results of the ninth round and a discussion of the future of the peace process. The Amman coordination meeting is of great significance given Christopher's announcement that the proposed 10th round will be completely different, as he put it, from the ninth round in terms of achieving tangible results.

The truth, which cannot be disputed by any two observers, is that the success of the Washington talks depends on a drastic change in the Israeli position. This change has yet to occur over nine rounds of talks. It seems that this change is now largely linked to an effective, fair U.S. role in implementing Security Council resolutions without any maneuvering or procrastination.

It is impossible to cast doubt on the U.S. desire to achieve a durable peace in the Middle East. However, the Israeli desire could not withstand any test. The talks in Washington have revealed that the Tel Aviv rulers are not concerned with peace as much as they are interested in expansion, entrenching occupation, stealing water resources in the occupied territories, and pressing ahead with their settlement schemes.

The Tel Aviv rulers have throughout the talks deliberately sought to waste time and efforts by raising issues that have nothing to do with the substance of peace, and by avoiding discussion of the most important foundations of peace, namely, withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

There have been reports that the Israelis are also demanding amending the framework and course of the negotiations and upgrading representation at the talks, despite the fact that their teams have yet to show any flexibility over one and a half years and used to receive their instructions directly from the former and current heads of government, Shamir and Rabin.

It is clear that upgrading the level of the talks—at a time when the Washington talks have not made any progress—is nothing more than a deceptive maneuver and another attempt to undermine the peace efforts. Would it not be more appropriate for the Tel Aviv rulers, if they really want peace, to voice publicly their readiness to implement Security Council resolutions and withdraw from all of the occupied Arab territories? Would it not be more worthwhile for the Tel Aviv rulers to lift the hunger siege imposed on the occupied territories and to stop killing innocent Arabs and destroying their homes and neighborhoods with rockets?

Peace cannot be made by false claims and promises or cheap maneuvers. It can come about through sincere intentions and a real commitment to the bases of the peace process, which was launched in Madrid only to come to a halt in Washington well over a year ago.

A declaration by the Tel Aviv rulers that they are fully prepared to withdraw from all the occupied territories and to acknowledge Palestinian rights is alone sufficient to provide new, effective momentum to the peace process and to deliver the talks from their current impasse. Such an Israeli announcement would not constitute a substantive concession. After all, the occupied territories belong to the Arabs, and the Security Council and UN General Assembly resolutions have stipulated the need for comprehensive withdrawal and an end to Israeli aggression and settlement activity.

By withdrawing from the occupied territories, Israel would be responding to the will, principles, and charters of the international community, after having consistently violating these charters since 1948. However, if the Israeli intransigence and deception continue, the Arab parties will be required to cling even closer to consistent pan-Arab principles, to affirm the unity of their ranks, positions, and strategic vision, and to expose the Tel Aviv rulers' games and attempts to deceive world public opinion. There is no alternative to receiving additional guarantees from the U.S. sponsor regarding its fair, honest role and on the ways to translate that into reality.

Arab rights and territories will never be subject to bargaining or relinquishment. The Arabs are seeking peace, not futile negotiations.

White House Adviser's Remarks Criticized

JN0106143193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Throughout the ninth round and earlier rounds of the Middle East peace talks, the Israeli side consistently went out of its way to avoid any real discussion of peace requirements, above all, total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The Syrian team put forward a formula for full peace in exchange for full withdrawal, but the Israeli side played deaf and claimed it had no mandate to discuss the question of withdrawal. It is common knowledge that Rabin orders his negotiating teams to be intransigent and to sidetrack the talks, directing them instead to topics that are not remotely related to the substance of the peace process and the U.N. Security Council resolutions underlying a settlement.

After the failure of the ninth round, Arabs and the world community naturally wonder about the future of the peace process. The world naturally looks to Washington for action. The U.S. secretary of state announced that he is preparing for a new round. Observers have been struck by the American secretary's remark that the proposed 10th round will produce a different outcome. This remark generated guarded optimism that was soon dispelled by a contradictory remark by Martin Indyk, White House adviser on the peace process. Indyk said Washington's participation in the talks would require it to work for—not against—Israel and that the United States is committed to deepening strategic ties with Israel. Arabs have never asked Washington to take their side and work against Israel. They have asked the United States to be partial to the cause of equity, justice, and peace and to promote implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions underpinning the famous U.S. initiative that led to the convocation of the Madrid conference. [passage omitted]

India

Senior BJP Legislator Shot Dead in Bombay

BK0206032893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] In Bombay, a senior BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] MLC [Member of Legislative Council], Mr. Premkumar Sharma, was shot dead by unknown assailants yesterday. The 48-year-old MLA [member of Legislative Assembly, as heard] was going in his car to attend a party along with his family members. Mr. Sharma's family members and the driver, who received minor injuries in the incident, have been admitted to the Harkishen Das Hospital. He was a member of the legislative assembly from Khetwadi area in south central Bombay when he was actively campaigning against the unauthorized constructions in his constituency.

BJP To Raise Army To Fight Muslim Militants in Kashmir

BK2905162693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] May 29 (AFP)—India's main opposition Hindu revivalist party announced plans Saturday [29 May] to form a 10,000-strong army to fight Moslem separatist guerrillas in Kashmir, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

The Kashmir chapter of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) said the proposed force, to be raised in Doda District, would be made up of retired Indian military personnel.

The news agency quoted BJP leader Chaman Lal Gupta as telling reporters in Jammu, Kashmir's winter capital, that a special fund would be set up for the army, whose members would get weapons "free of cost."

Moslem rebels fighting for the secession of Kashmir have recently spread their activities to the Hindu-majority Jammu region, mainly to Doda, where Hindus are slightly outnumbered by Moslems.

Gupta said nearly 8,000 Moslem militants were in Pakistani-held Kashmir waiting to sneak into the Indian zone to step up their campaign.

He described the situation in Doda as "explosive and going out of control," and demanded that the Indian Government hand over the entire Doda region to the army, now fighting Moslem guerrillas in the Kashmir valley.

The BJP leader did not say when the party would begin raising the army, and it was not immediately clear if the proposal had government support.

Security forces gunned down a Moslem militant in Doda on Thursday.

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan. New Delhi controls the southern two-thirds and Islamabad the remainder. The two neighbours have gone to war twice over the territory.

Minister Rules Out Mediation on Kashmir

BK2905080493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, says that the center has planned a major initiative for Jammu and Kashmir which includes beefing up of security, stepping up the pace of development, and bringing about a psychological change in the outlook of the administration in the state. Participating in a program televised yesterday, the minister said the center has prepared a substantive economic package for the state and it is waiting for the situation to become conducive to implement it.

Mr. Salman Khurshid asserted that there is no question of holding any tripartite talks with Pakistan or allowing any outside mediation on the Kashmir issue. Emphasizing that there could be no compromise on the question of Kashmir's accession to India, he said the doors are always open for talks for any section within Kashmir for the resolution of the issue within the country's constitutional framework.

The minister asserted that the Army is operating in the state under an overall security operation under the direction of the state government.

Army Reportedly Kills 18 in Kashmir

BK0106150293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, another 18 people have been martyred during siege and search operation by Indian troops. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE], over 50 people were also arrested during the operation which was carried out in Srinagar, Pulwama, Baramula, Anantnag, Islamabad, and Badgam. Two youths were martyred when they clashed with troops at (Chandora). Reports from Baramula and Kupwara say the occupation forces have stepped up their operations in these towns. Meanwhile, a team of Kashmiri lawyers who visited a detainees' camp at Jodhpur has expressed concern over the health of political workers and the inhuman treatment being meted out to them.

Two Killed, 17 Arrested in Kashmir; 60 Detainees Freed

BK0206053693 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, security forces have arrested 17 hard-core militants and killed two others since yesterday evening during search operations and encounters in different parts of the state. The director general of the state police, Mr. B.S. Bedi, said the situation in the valley is now showing steady signs of improvement. The state government today released 60 detenus from various jails.

With the success of security forces, the mood in the Kashmir valley is undergoing a change. This is was reflected in the famous Pher Bhawani Mela [fair at a Hindu temple] at (Kulamula) village last weekend. A large number of devotees visited the shrine of Pher Bhawani in the village, situated about 27 km from Srinagar. There is a small marble temple of goddess Raganya Devi in the center of a spring. Accord to legends, the goddess changes the color of the water on a particular day when the mela is held.

Proposed Human Rights Commission To Have Wide Powers

BK3105040493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] The National Human Rights Commission being set up by the center is to have wide-ranging powers. It will investigate human rights violations by the state agencies and also complaints following organized group violance and terrorist acts. The commission will inquire into allegations against members of the Armed Forces and paramilitary units, but will follow a separate procedures to deal with these complaints.

Our correspondent says the proposed national commission will have the powers of a civil court to conduct its own inquiry. It will be empowered even to intervene in court proceedings relating to alleged violation of human rights. Besides making recommendations, the commission will be able to approach the Supreme Court or high courts concerned for directions on the basis of its inquiry. Our correspodent adds that the National Human Rights Commission will seek to strengthen the existing institution, rather than become a super body.

Burkina Faso President Visits To Discuss Cooperation

BK0106045193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] India has reiterated its readiness to continue to provide technological expertise and experience to the West African nation of Burkina Faso in the true spirit of South-South cooperation. Speaking at the banquet hosted yesterday in honor of the visiting president of Burkina Faso, Mr. Blaise Compaore, the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said that India is keen on promoting cooperation in the fields of agriculture and small- and medium-scale industries and offered assistance to procure agriculture equipment, vehicles, and related machinery. He said India is ready to cooperate in the area of human resource development.

Agreement on Joint Commission

BK0106153493 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1426 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Official spokesman's statement on the visit by an official delegation of Burkina Faso led by President Blaise Campaore]

[Text] While briefing newsmen, the official spokesman stated that the Burkina delegation led by the president of Burkina Faso, H.E. Mr. Blaise Campaore, held official talks with the official delegation led by our prime minister this morning at 11.00 o'clock.

Both the sides reaffirmed the close and friendly relationship which exists between the two countries. It was felt that in the spirit of South-South cooperation, there is need to give a concrete thrust to the strengthening of economic and commercial relations to further consolidate bilateral relations.

The two countries have agreed to cooperate in the fields of agriculture, textiles, geology, mining, and transportation. It was also felt that the private sector should be encouraged to take more active interest in furthering commercial cooperation.

It was also decided to set up a joint commission to enhance our cooperation in various sectors. On our side, the leader of the joint commission will be the minister of agriculture.

As a gesture of friendship and cooperation, the government of India will be gifting for demonstration purposes a few manufactured items which are intended to help Burkina Faso's development programs in the transport sector, the agricultural sector, and some other areas. These items include the supply of trading of local personnel. Indian experts will also visit especially mining, textiles, and irrigation [sentence as received]. India will also make a feasibility study for setting up a multipurpose project for maintaining transport vehicles, agricultural implements, and other similar machinery of common use.

The president of Burkina Faso thanked the government of India for the symbolic gesture which was related to sectors to which they attached great importance. He also hoped that this would lead to enhanced commercial transactions and the setting up of joint ventures. President Campaore invited our prime minister to visit his country and the invitation was accepted by our prime minister.

Russia Offers 'State-of-the-Art' T-80u Tanks

BK0206090493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Russia has offered T-80u tanks to India. UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA], quoting military experts, says that the new tank incorporates state-of-the-art technology and is better than the T-72 tanks acquired by

India previously from the erstwhile Soviet Union. The T-80u has many features such as accuracy, a powerful engine, and ability to fire rockets besides using normal ammunition.

Minister Clarifies Stand on Dunkel Proposals

BK3005091093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] The commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, says the government has rejected the Dunkel proposal on patenting of seeds to safeguard the interests of the country's farmers and researchers. In an interview to PTI in New Delhi, the minister said that other provisions of the proposals are broadly in line with our liberalized economic policy. Mr. Mukherji said he had already held meetings with the leaders of various political parties on the issue. Discussions with the representatives of the workers and industry will be held soon.

The minister said India has insisted that under the proposals visa restrictions be relaxed to enable Indian workers to work in other countries.

Iran

Reaction to Saudi Ban on Hajj Ceremony

Foreign Ministry Denies Agreement

LD2805161793 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA—A spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry here Friday [28 May] denied a report by Agence France Presse (AFP) to the effect that according to an agreement reached between Iran and Saudi Arabia 'Deliverance From Pagans' rally would be held in Mecca Friday afternoon.

Morteza Sarmadi said that by 17:30 local time (13:30 GMT) today, no agreement had been reached between Iranian and Saudi officials on the holding of the said rally in Mecca.

(AFP) reported that according to an agreement reached between Iran and Saudi Arabia, Iranian pilgrims would congregate in front of the representative office of the Iranian hajj mission in Mecca to hold the 'Deliverance From Pagans' rally Friday afternoon.

The spokesman also told IRNA that in reports received from Jeddah by 17:00 hours local time Friday, there was no mention of the said agreement.

Meanwhile, IRNA reporters in Mecca did not confirm holding of such a gathering.

U.S. 'Pressure' Led to Ban

LD2805173693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a statement today responding to the action taken by the Saudi Government preventing the Disavowal of the Infidels demonstrations in Mecca.

The statement says: The Saudi Government prevented the holding of the divine ceremonies of the Disavowal of the Infidels under pressure from America.

The statement continues: The aim of this year's Disavowal of the Infidels ceremonies was to reveal the oppressive policies of world arrogance throughout the world, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as Zionist conspiracies in the region. Saudi Arabia succumbed to American pressure and the Disavowal of the Infidels ceremonies were halted.

The magnificent hajj ceremonies are a divine and political rite, and implementing their ancient Abrahamite tradition, world Muslims take advantage of being beside the House of God each year to protest oppression, which is inflicted on Muslims in various parts of the world.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry expresses regret that, at the place of the divine sanctuary, it was not possible to reveal the oppression and protest against the genocide of the oppressed Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina spearheaded by the world arrogance and Zionist crimes against the oppressed Muslims of Palestine. It notes: Such actions help world arrogance achieve its inauspicious goals and weaken Muslim unity.

'Text' of Khamene'i Letter

LD2905111193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution and the custodian of the order of the Muslims, today in reply to a letter from Hojjat ol-Eslam val- Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri, the representative of the supreme jurisconsult and supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims, described the action of the Saudi Government in preventing the disavowal of the pagans ritual as a bitter, irresponsible, and illogical act, and stressed that the right of the Iranian nation to perform the disavowal rite during the hajj is preserved and no one has the right to prevent it.

The text of the letter of the leader of the Islamic revolution to the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Hojjat ol- Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri, the honorable supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims, may your shadow extend. Greetings. The bitter, irresponsible, and illogical action of the Saudi Government in preventing the disavowal ritual of the honorable pilgrims at the Holy Mecca caused surprise and regret. To me it is unacceptable for a government, which has undertaken the service of the pilgrims to the holy house of God, to prevent a ritual which would unite Muslims and bring glory to Islamic nations and testify to their hatred for the arrogant and the enemies of the world of Islam.

To whom and to which faction in the current world factional situation would its denial be beneficial? Is it a crime to support innocent Muslim nations, like the Palestinian nation and the innocents in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the peoples of Kashmir, Iraq, and Tajikistan? Is divulging the plans of America and other oppressors against Islam and Muslims an act contrary to duty? Is inviting Muslims to unite and express their hatred for divisive elements not a clear Koranic command?

It is America and Zionism that benefit from the cessation of such important duties. Why should the Saudi Government take on a task from which America and Zionism benefit, and halt Islamic rites which are beneficial to Islam and Muslims and in accordance with divine decrees?

Do the Saudi rulers not know that God Almighty has said: The House of God belongs to all people, and the inhabitants of that land have the same rights to it as those who go there from other parts of the world. Why should the pious and honorable nation of Iran and other nations, who consider the disavowal of paganism and pagans as one of the fundamental rituals of hajj, be deprived of that right?

It is regrettable that those responsible for this incident have disregarded the feelings of Muslim nations and have not noted that such actions would be harmful to the Saudi Government, not only in the eyes of other nations but also to the Saudi people themselves.

While strongly condemning this un-Islamic act I declare that the right of the Iranian nation to perform the disavowal ritual during the hajj is preserved, and no one has the right to prevent it. I also deem it necessary to thank Your Excellency for your good initiative in taking the appropriate decision and also the sense of responsibility of the dear Iranian pilgrims in being fully prepared for disavowal and also obeying Your Excellency. I pray to God Almighty for an acceptable hajj, your praiseworthy and sincere deed for God, under the auspicious of his holiness the custodian of God, our souls be sacrificed to him for you and all the dear pilgrims.

Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

[Dated] 7th Dhi'l-Hijjah 1413 AH; 8 Khordad 1372 [29 May 1993]

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

Ahmad Khomeyni Condemns Saudis

LD2905171093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] In a speech [on the occasion of the death anniversary of Khomeyni], Hojat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyed Ahmad Khomeyni said the expansionist and hegemonistic nature of world devourers was a great obstacle to the path of unity, brotherhood, and understanding among the single Islamic ummah.

He strongly condemned the Saudi Government for prohibiting the disavowal of the infidels ceremonies and said: This anti-Islamic act has pleased America and the world infidel front. On the advice of America, the Saudi Government has once again prohibited the disavowal of infidels by the very Muslims who are the eternal enemies of the symbols of world infidels. This anti-monotheistic act has displeased the believers and good servants of God. No free Muslim will ever forget the enmity of world-devouring America and, to keep the honor and strength of the Islamic world, will always react harshly against infidelity. The more we show flexibility toward America and its mercenaries, the more they will impudently rebuke us and show their hatred.

Finally, Hojat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyed Ahmad Khomeyni stressed the enthusiastic participation of the people in the sixth round of the presidential elections and said participation in the elections is advice from the esteemed imam and it is our duty to understand the present sensitive situation and to prove to the world that we are present in the political and social scene.

He added that enthusiastic participation in the election is an indication of the interest of Iran's revolutionary people in the fate of Islam and serious struggle with the world disinformation.

Saudi Political Difficulties Behind Ban

NC2905181393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry issued a statement yesterday denouncing the Saudi authorities' ban on the disavowal of the infidels ritual. [passage omitted]

The Saudi action, which provoked widespread Muslim anger, came at a time when the Islamic world needs to close its ranks and renounce divisions. The disavowal of the infidels ritual is a declaration of Islamic unity before the world. Therefore it can be said that any measure to quench this Islamic revolution can only be explained as a defense of the interests of global arrogance. No doubt the Saudi officials are well aware that the Islamic world faces fateful and critical issues in the Middle East and also in Europe. Any negligence or prevarication vis-a-vis this serious situation might prove costly to the Islamic world.

The recent Saudi action raises serious questions to which the Saudis are urged to provide reasonable and acceptable answers. We must note that some people believe that the domestic political crisis in Saudi Arabia played a part in the adoption of the recent Saudi attitude to the pilgrims visiting God's inviolate house. They add that the Saudi authorities, because of their internal political difficulties, feel that any occurrence or action that is hostile to the United States or Israel might further undermine the country.

Regardless of the motives, there is no doubt that the recent Saudi action will have adverse effects on that country's regional standing. The Islamic Republic has consistently stressed the need to improve and develop relations among the region's countries and Muslim countries in general. It had been hoped that the Saudi authorities would avoid any measure that might harm Islamic unity and the friendship between the two countries.

'Blatant Siding' With U.S.

LD2905171993 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA—The Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO) here last night condemned Saudi Arabia for banning the disavowal on disbelievers rally in Holy Mecca which was to be held Thursday [27 May].

The IPO statement mentioned that the Saudi Government in a blatant siding with criminal America has prevented expressions of antipathy by tens of thousands of pilgrims against enemies of Islam and the occupying Zionists.

"The question remaining for all free Muslims of the world is that why the Saudi regime, despite its previous agreement, prevented the peaceful gathering of pilgrims by using the force of bayonets, armoured vehicles, personnel carriers and massive presence of military forces," it asked.

"What harm would the 'Down With the U.S.' and 'Down With Israel' slogans do with them (Saudis) that they confronted it? Was it a crime to invite Muslims to 'towhid' (monotheism) and unity in order to express antipathy against disbelievers and to fight the enemies' conspiracies as per the clear injunctions of the Holy Koran? Why was it prevented in the land of divine revelation and in the safe sanctum (on Mecca)?

"Where should the cries of the oppressed peoples of Bosnia, Palestine, Tajikistan and Kashmir be heard?" the statement asked.

The organization, on behalf of all free and revolutionary Muslims, as well as Iranian Muslims, strongly denounced the "improper act" of the Saudi officials in their "anti-Islamic treatment" (of the pilgrims), an act in contradiction of the injunctions of the Holy Koran and the traditions of the Holy Prophet (pbuh), it added.

IPO called on all free Muslims, and especially on ulema, thinkers, intellectuals, conscious and committed writers to speak out against the anti-Islamic policies of the Saudi rulers to prevent them from turning hajj into a lifeless ritual.

The statement asked the Saudi officials to reconsider their improper policies before "it would be too late" and to forego their unislamic moves so that the world of Islam is not further displeased with them.

University Students Protest

LD3005105693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] A group of students from Tehran University gathered today in the university mosque and protested the unprincipled attitude of the Saudi officials toward the staging of the disavowal of infidels ceremonies in holy Mecca. The participants in the gathering were carrying protest banners, and chanted slogans such as: Death to America; America—compromise with you is unthinkable; The edict of the imam of the ummah must be executed, the apostate Salman Rushdie must be executed.

Moreover, the protesting students staged a march within the university campus and recited some parts of the recent message issued by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i addressed to the pilgrims of the House of God. The students' gathering concluded after they issued a resolution that expressed regret about the step taken by the Saudi Government preventing the staging of disavowal of infidels ceremonies. They considered that step as a premeditated conspiratorial move by arrogance. The resolution also stressed that banning the disavowal of infidels ceremonies will lead to nothing but discord and dispute among Muslims.

Majles Speaker Condemns Ban

LD3005185893 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 30 IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri today termed as "improper and irrational" Saudi Arabia's move to ban the rally of rejection of disbelievers in Mecca last Thursday [27 May].

Speaking at the open session of the parliament, he described the scheduled rally as an essential ritual of the hajj and a means to take position against global arrogance.

He recalled the remarks of the leader of the Islamic revolution in this regard, and said that as Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i has remarked: "The Saudi Government served the interest of the United States and heeded the call of the great satan rather than the call of divine."

The speaker went on: "The Saudi family call themselves custodians of the holy shrines but instead of serving the Kaaba they serve the White House and at the behest of the satan have focused on extinguishing the light of truth."

He regretted that the "incredibly hasty" move of the Saudi Government in banning the holding of the rally despite earlier assurances, served the interests of global arrogance.

Nateq-Nuri expressed hope that the Saudi Government would honour Islam and Muslim interests in the region instead of being a puppet for global arrogance.

Meanwhile, in today's session of parliament Nateq-Nuri and Hasan Rohani were re-elected respectively as the speaker and first deputy speaker of the Majles while Mohammad 'Ali Movahedi Kermani was elected as the second deputy to the speaker.

Habibi Condemns Decision

LD3005221193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 30 May 93

[Excerpts] At Sunday's [30 May] Cabinet meeting, which was chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the regulations on note 46 of the budget bill for the current year concerning the sale of sports facilities to the private sector were passed. [passage omitted]

First Vice President Mr. Habibi condemned at the meeting the latest action taken by the Saudi Government in preventing the staging of the rallies for the disavowal of infidels. He said: In a situation when the world of Islam needs unity and solidarity, this measure by the Saudi Government will lead to discord among the world's Muslims. He pointed out that these ceremonies were also performed in past years, and said that the decision by the Saudi Government is in the interests of America. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Support Khamene'i

LD3105114393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] The political-ideological department of the esteemed commander in chief, representing the ranks of the personnel of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic, while fully supporting the content of the letter of the great leader of the Islamic revolution to Hojjat ol-eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi Reyshahri, expresses its disgust with the anti-Koranic action of the Saudi rulers in banning the disavowal of the infidels ceremonies, and with regards to the holding of the ceremonies according to the ideas of the esteemed leader says: The Iranian nation has a right to hold the disavowal ceremonies during the hajj and no one has the right to ban them.

Velayati on Talks in UAE, Visit to Gulf States

LD2805163993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1424 GMT 28 May 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] The joint Iran-UAE communique indicates a settlement of misunderstandings between the two countries. Could you please speak about the UAE stand on its approach to Iran?

[Velayati] The visit to the UAE was one of the most sensitive stages of the trip. As you pointed out, for more than a year misunderstandings were created in relations between the two countries. Factors indicated that the two sides wished for a settlement of the misunderstandings that had caused a cooling of relations between the two countries. In the recent Islamic conference in Karachi, the first steps were taken for the settlement of the misunderstandings. The meeting I had with UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Al Nuhayyan was the first step toward the settlement of the problem. It was in the same meeting that he invited me to visit the UAE and I accepted.

We met during my trip to the countries of the Persian Gulf. Very frank, clear, and sincere talks were held with the head of the UAE Government, Shaykh Zayid Al Nuhayyan, and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid. And this finally led to the communique that you have seen, the content of which indicates the opening of a new chapter in the relations between the two countries. It was decided that the talks should continue in Tehran and Abu Dhabi so that, God willing, we will reach a point that the two countries deserve, that is countries with ultimate good will and constructive, good neighborly relations. This was clear from the talks with the UAE officials and the same interest exists on the Iranian side.

[Correspondent] Western circles and some of the regional countries have reacted to that visit. With regard to sensitivities of the said visit, please tell us how much your talks with the officials of these countries can guarantee expansion of cooperation and establishment of stability in the region.

[Velayati] Without serious, direct, and active participation of the regional countries, it is not possible for us to witness sound security in the region. The members of the Cooperation Council and the Islamic Republic of Iran have had good neighborly ties since a long time ago. During the recent years, because of some difficulties—we do not want to go into their causes—these ties were somewhat cold; at times we witnessed tensions in relations. But, in the final analysis, they have all arrived at the conclusion that without having friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran it is not possible to have sound security in the region. That was what we used to say previously. We believe that it is through cooperation with the countries of the region that we can witness a sound and genuine security in the region—without interference from outside. We have stressed that point; we continue to stress it. Interference from outsiders has always brought about problems.

[Correspondent] To what extent has the recent visit by [Egyptian President] Mubarak influenced the relations of these countries with Iran?

[Velayati] We beg to say that contrary to what some media have said over the past few days, the planning of our visit to the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf was made before the visit of the Egyptian president to those countries. Issues related to cooperation between Iran and those countries are basic and long standing—they are not influenced by such moves. Very fundamental and determining factors make up these ties; it is farfetched that visits such as Mubarak's can have any serious impact on them.

[Correspondent] Thank you. We also thank our audience for their attention to our program.

Velayati Returns From Georgia; Communique Released

LD2805162693 Tehran IRNA in English 1424 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Georgian counterpart underlined further cementing of mutual ties and exchanged views on regional detente and bilateral cooperation at international arena.

Velayati wrapped up his two-day visit to Georgia and returned home Friday. While there, he held talks with Georgian president, premier and foreign minister.

A joint communique issued at the end of the talks focused on such issues as formation of a joint commission, setting up of a parliamentary friendship group to boost bilateral ties, identical views of the two sides regarding independence, peace and reinforcement of peaceful measures in Caucasia.

While in Georgia, Velayati attended a press conference in which he described the outcome of his talks and follow up of overall agreements in industrial, economic, agricultural, trade, cultural and telecommunication areas as "consructive and satisfactory."

He noted that formation of a joint commission in Tbilisi in future would be important in materialization of the anticipated objectives.

Velayati pointed to the export of Iran's natural gas to Georgia and exchange of delegations at technical expert level among other topics of the agreements.

On U.S.-Russia-Turkey peace plan on Karabakh, Velayati said that Iran would approve any peaceful solution which would put an end to the dispute.

He further commented that a plan in itself was not enough but what rather mattered was the implementation of the plan since both sides had suffered the war.

The foreign minister termed as "unsuccessful" measures taken so far by the U.N. on Bosnia-Herzegovina and said that arms sanction imposed on Bosnians under the status quo when Serbs were armed to teeth, was the denial of the legitimate right of defence for the Bosnians and a means to provide further opportunities for the aggressors.

Commentary on Velayati's Reply to Christopher's Remarks

NC3105065793 Tehran Voice of the Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 31 May 93

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] In a news conference yesterday, Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati described the hostile U.S. attitude toward Iran as blackmail by the U.S. Administration against independent countries and said that this stance will never bend the Iranian nation's will.

Dr. Velayati's remarks came in answer to recent statements by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that Iran should be internationally isolated. Christopher said that U.S. policy is focused on efforts to encourage its allies to isolate Iran.

In answer to this U.S. stance, Dr. Velayati said: Iran's relations with other countries are based on mutual and common interests, and it is quite clear that the world's independent countries will not submit to U.S. pressure or blackmail and will not sacrifice their interests and principles for the sake of the illicit intentions of U.S. statesmen.

A quick glance at U.S. policies toward Iran during the 15 years following the victory of the Islamic revolution shows that U.S. efforts to isolate Iran and to inflict pressure on its leaders in a bid to affect Iran's independent policies are nothing new. These U.S. policies started after the victory of the Islamic revolution and the end of U.S. influence in Iran and have been continuing without interruption until now.

In Farvardin [month ending 10 April] this year, Christopher told one of the Senate committees that Iran is an uncontrollable country on the international scene and that the United States is trying to prevent international assistance from reaching Iran. U.S. emphasis on the need to isolate Iran following the end of the cold war and the change in the bipolar system has been further intensified within the framework of U.S. policies to preserve its position as the sole supreme power. The United States is trying to pressure countries that pursue policies independent of U.S. positions in order to form the new order that it has in mind.

Because of its independent policies and because it enjoys a strategic position in the new world situation, Iran has gained a special place in the new U.S. strategy. Thus, more than ever—and more than any other country—it is the target of hostile U.S. attacks.

In view of the fact that Iran's relations with other countries are based on mutual interests, efforts by a third country to upset these relations cannot be very effective. Even though Iran has always faced U.S. sanctions during the past years, it has been able to regulate its relations with others and meet its needs. The difficult conditions during the sacred defense and the U.S. sanctions were never able to bend the Iranian nation's will and determination.

In relation to this, Dr. Velayati said yesterday that countries are cooperating with Iran on the basis of mutual interests and that the world is alert enough not to allow the United States to solve its problems by harming the interests of others. But although U.S. efforts to harm Iran's relations with other countries will continue, these efforts definitely will not be able to prevent Islamic Iran from implementing its independent and principled policies.

Commentator Views U.S. Attempts To 'Pressure' Iran

LD3005142893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1002 GMT 30 May 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has declared: The United States has decided to ask its allies to cut their trade ties with Iran. Mr Christopher, who since his arrival at the U.S. State Department has turned into a television personality for his anti-Iranian interviews, stated on U.S. television that the level of anti-U.S. sentiment in Iran is very high and for this reason U.S. attempts to isolate Iran are legitimate.

At the same time, last Thursday, the daily paper, THE NEW YORK TIMES, which is connected to the U.S. ruling group, revealed: America intends to convince its friends in Europe and Asia to stop their loans, credit, investment and selling of arms to Iran.

In rationalizing all those acts former claims and accusation against Iran have been rehashed. Again it has been claimed that Iran seeks to obtain nuclear arms, that Iran support terrorism, and that the protests by the people of Egypt and Algeria against their governments are because of Tehran. U.S. action against Iran and the Islamic revolution is nothing more than what the United States embarked on the day after the victory of the Islamic revolution and the accusations raised are merely pretexts for continuing past policies. America intends, through intimidating other states, to keep the so-called leadership of the Western world.

The late British prime minister, Winston Churchill, said: Alliances endure under the shadow of fear. During the existence of the Soviet Union fear of communism was considered to be the factor for uniting the West and at the moment, America presents those states which in various parts of the world act contrary to U.S. policies as threats. In Central America, Cuba; in Asia, North Korea; in the Middle East and North Africa, Iran, Syria, and Libya are the states through which America pursues its regional policies by speaking adversely about them.

These steps, which have no legal legitimacy [vejhe-ye qanuni], have put the United States at the head of international law-breakers. Threatening the use of force, interfering in the internal affairs of states, violating national sovereignty, and committing aggression against sovereign territories are some of the instruments America uses in this regard. America's illegal and inhuman acts have even resulted in protests within that country so that a prominent former judge in the International Court of Justice and a member of the UN International Law Committee, Lewis Henkin, who is considered to be among the distinguished scholars in America, revealed the details of U.S. illegal acts in an open letter to Clinton, the U.S. President. He has called on the U.S. President to plainly announce that the new world order is nothing but the sovereignty of law in U.S. foreign policy. The International Court judge has called on Clinton to plainly announce that the United States respects the territorial integrity and political independence of governments. U.S. agents will not enter the territory of governments without their permission, and, in particular, America will not attempt kidnapping within the territory of other states. He demands from the U.S. President to adopt the convention on banning torture and banning racial discrimination. The reluctance of the U.S. Congress and ruling group in adopting the convention on banning torture and banning racial discrimination as well as the convention on political and civil rights is not only contrary to the U.S. Constitution, but it also ignores human rights standards.

Now the U.S. Administration, with such a performance within and without, seeks to put Iran under pressure for its opposition to the so-called peace talks between the Arabs and Israel. If such a policy had any results in the past it will have them in the future as well!

Paper Says U.S. Forces Helping Rebels in Iraq

NC0206081293 Paris AFP in English 0742 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 2 (AFP)—U.S. forces in the Gulf have been helping Iranian rebels based in Iraq to carry out cross-border attacks, the semi-official TEHRAN TIMES charged Wednesday [2 June].

Captured guerrillas had confessed that the U.S. military had meetings with members of the Mojahedin e-Khalq in the past two months, the English-language daily said, referring to Iran's main armed opposition group.

The United States had given them information on targets in Iran where bombs could be planted, and "food supplies to last them for 15 days," it said.

Officials said last month that Iraqi-based rebels had infiltrated Iran through the southern border in April and May and blown up several oil pipelines in Khuzestan province.

All the commandos had been killed or captured, the officials said.

Iran struck back with air strikes on Mojahedin bases inside Iraq on May 20.

The TEHRAN TIMES' accusations are the latest in a series against the United States after Secretary of State Warren Christopher called Friday for Iran's international isolation.

Iraqi Prisoners of War Released; Reciprocal Gesture Urged

LD2805140393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] One hundred Iraqi prisoners [of war] were returned to their homeland today. Once again, to show its good will toward the Iraqi nation and the world organizations, the Islamic Republic of Iran today unilaterally released 100 remaining Iraqi POW's. They were handed over to the Government of Iraq, in the presence of the representatives of the Red Cross, at the border post.

A spokesman for the Commission on POW Affairs said that Iran wants Iraq to release remaining Iranian prisoners—who number, he said, several thousands—as a sign of reciprocal good will and in response to the humanitarian act of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Over the past year Iran has released close to 3,500 Iraqi military personnel on separate occasions. On each occasion the Iranian officials have asked Iraq to free the remaining Iranian prisoners as a sign of good will. However, Baghdad has not responded.

The Red Cross has also announced that it has strong evidence to prove that Iraq still continues to hold a large number of Iranian prisoners.

Rebel Radio Reports Attacks in Iraqi Kurdistan

NC3005111193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Esteemed listeners. The Islamic Republic continues its artillery attacks on the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan. According to reports received by the Voice of Iranian Kordestan, the regime's forces attacked the border areas at 0220 on 27 May with intense artillery fire aimed at the valley of the Qandil Heights. This antihuman attack continued for an hour and a half.

At 0740 on 26 May, the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan were fired on by the clerical regime's artillery for an hour and a half. These areas are near Begalas, (Saryuni) Shaykh Ardalan, (Shedarad), and the hill resort of (Chafa) in the (Pizhlar) region of Iraqi Kurdistan.

According to a report, the clerical regime's forces at 1145 on 26 May attacked the villages of (Zindah) and Hajj 'Umran and their environs with intense artillery fire and continued this criminal and disgraceful act for a few hours. There are no reports on casualties or damage.

While condemning this aggressive act by the clerical regime against Iraqi Kurdistan, we call on all political, humanitarian, and international organizations to pay attention to this issue and prevent the clerical regime from continuing its warmongering. They should not allow the clerical regime to continue to generate insecurity in the border areas or to encroach upon and attack the people's homes.

There is no doubt that the regime's continued aggression will have painful and bitter consequences and that peace and security in the region will thus be threatened.

More Attacks Reported

NC3105062193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] The antihuman clerical regime continues to shell the border areas of Iraqi Kurdistan. Reports indicate that the regime's military forces carried out heavy artillery attacks on the outskirts of Qandil Heights and the (Nawdasht) area in Iraqi Kurdistan from 2030 [1600 GMT] on 27 May until 0100 [2030 GMT] on 28 May with their long-range artillery, severely damaging farmland.

According to another report, at 2030 [1600 GMT] on 27 May the regime's criminal forces shelled (Kanardeh and Bayanan) villages and the arbors in the (Sharbajen) area in Iraqi Kurdistan for several hours with long-range artillery. As a result, the house of defenseless villager Kamal Hajimohammad in (Kanardeh) was damaged.

Another report on the aggressive movement of the antipopular clerical regime's forces toward Iraqi Kurdistan says that on 27 May, a large number of regime mercenaries attacked Iraqi Kurdistan from the Baneh border area and occupied (Harnavaj, Susak, and Timaryan) villages in the (Charta) region, after which they started to harass the defenseless villagers. Because of their bestial and criminal nature, the antipopular forces of the regime also plundered the villagers' money and jewelry during the raids on their homes.

After plundering the villagers' property and belongings, the regime's aggressive forces arrested a defenseless resident of (Timaryan) village named Rezabak. There is no precise information on his fate. The same report says that after leaving the region and returning to the border area, the regime's forces started shelling these villages at 1700 [1230 GMT] and continued this antihuman act for many hours. As a result of this criminal act, heavy financial damage was inflicted on the villagers.

Once again we strongly condemn the aggression by the clerical regime's forces against Iraqi Kurdistan and the attack by the regime's mercenaries against the defenseless people of our neighboring country. We warn that the continuation of such aggressive policies will have destructive consequences on regional security. Thus, we call on all international organizations and circles to find a suitable solution to this problem as soon as possible and to force the instigating clerical regime to stop such aggressive acts.

Velayati Discusses Bosnia With Counterparts

Exchanges Views With Turkey's Cetin

LD3005110593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] We continue the bulletin with news about a telephone conversation between Foreign Minister Velayati and [Turkish Foreign Minister] Hikmet Cetin. In the telephone conversation between Mr. Velayati and his Turkish counterpart, views on the worrying situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina were exchanged. In that conversation, both sides emphasized the need for greater activity by the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] working group, which was ratified in the 21st session of the ICO ministers meeting in Karachi. This group consists of Pakistan, Turkey, Senegal, and the ICO secretary general. It is intended that the group should take measures aimed at establishing international contacts so as to attract support for the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Furthermore, in their telephone conversation, the foreign ministers of Iran and Turkey expressed their opposition to the plan about Bosnia put forward by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. They urged Islamic countries to make direct efforts on the international scene to address the issue.

Discusses Relations With Finnish Minister

LD3105081393 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 31, IRNA—The Finnish political deputy foreign minister, Bolum Berg Sunday met with the Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here and called for the expansion of bilateral relations as well as exchange of delegations at higher levels. Berg exchanged views with Velayati on important regional and international issues and expressed pleasure over his visit to Iran.

Referring to the developments in Europe and the region and the peace-seeking role of Finland, Velayati underlined bilateral cooperation between Tehran and Copenhagen [as received] in political and international affairs.

Issues related to Karabakh, Tajikistan, Georgia as well as the new changes in Russia were among other topics discussed by the [words indistinct].

Discusses ICO With Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif

LD3105101593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran ['Ali Akbar Velayati] and Pakistan [Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif] held a telephone conversation today, during which they discussed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the activity of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] on the issue. In the discussion, the two minister opposed the plan presented by the five members of the UN security council on Bosnia and stressed the need for greater activity by Islamic countries in the international scene.

The foreign ministers of Iran and Pakistan also agreed to cooperate more closely so as to attract the support of other countries for Bosnian Muslims.

Talks to French Foreign Minister

LD0106155293 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] In another telephone conversation, Iran's Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati today also held talks with his French counterpart, Mr. Alain Juppe, on the plight of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Velayati referred to activities by the Islamic Republic of Iran to prevent the genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina, stressing the implementation of basic plans to solve the crisis there.

Iran's foreign minister further expressed hope that the French Government would earnestly try to establish a just and fair peace in Bosnia. Meanwhile, the French foreign minister put emphasis on the expansion of measures to help the Bosnian people, calling for an acceleration in this regard.

The two sides also reached an agreement to continue their contacts until the dilemma is settled in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Agrees To Continue Contacts With Austria

LD0106160693 Tehran IRNA in English 1506 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 1, IRNA—The crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina and ways to help its settlement were discussed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Austrian counterpart Alois Mock in a telephone conversation today.

The two sides also agreed to continue their contacts in the area of helping the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Earlier today, Velayati had discussed the Bosnian issue on the phone with his French counterpart.

Ahmad Khomeyni Addresses Foreign Guests

LD0206103093 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 2, IRNA—Some 200 ranking foreign guests, including 15 ministers and vice-presidents, as well as nearly 4,000 others from over 40 world countries are to take part in the 4th anniversary of the late Imam Khomeyni's demise. Head of the headquarters in charge of holding the decease anniversary Mohammad 'Ali Ansari said at the beginning it was expected that some 2,000 guests from among ordinary people would arrive in Iran for the ceremony but, "many more lovers of Imam Khomeyni have asked for visa on the same occasion." Also, he noted, telecommunication and other facilities had been provided for over 150 foreign journalists who would cover the event.

Meanwhile, a three-day international seminar on Imam Khomeyni's practical and theoretical approach in society will be held in cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran's women society and with participation of female guests, he said. Ansari further added that a round table would also be held to mark the occasion with the participation of foreign guests who would discuss three issues of hajj, the late imam and, Palestine.

The headquarters has provided all facilities including housing, food and health care services for foreign and domestic pilgrims of the late imam's holy shrine. The ceremonies will reach its peak on Friday, June 4. By Tuesday, some 2,650 guests arrived in Tehran from Pakistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Senegal, China, Turkey, Sierra Leone, Croatia, Afghanistan, Mozambique, Germany, Tanzania, Denmark, Canada, Austria, South Africa, France and Turkmenistan.

Meanwhile, some 90 people from among the families of those martyred in Lebanon in their struggle against the Zionist regime, arrived in Tehran last Monday, attended in Behesht-e Zahra cemetery and showered with flowers the graves of the Islamic revolution's martyrs. In another development, various groups of people, including university students from throughout the country attended in 'Jamaran', the residence of the late imam, Tuesday and mourned his demise.

On the same day, a group of foreign guests met with imam's son, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni. Addressing the guests, he said that Iranians felt they had close links with other Muslim nations and that all followed the path and goals of Imam Khomeyni. Imam's son reiterated that all Muslims in Iran, Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir and North Africa were target for attacks by the world arrogance because they obeyed orders of God. "We all have pledged allegiance with the almighty God to follow the path of the imam and the highly-worthed martyrs of Islam. We are certain that brave Muslims in occupied Palestine and Lebanon will eradicate the illegitimate entity of the Zionist regime, in not so far a future, through resorting to the eternal divine power," the hojjat ol-eslam said. He stressed that defending the rights of the oppressed Muslims throughout the world is one of the inalterable principles of Iran's foreign policy. Castigating propaganda ploy of enemies of the Islamic revolution to the effect that Iran had been weakened in continuing the imam's path, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni reiterated, "their path is the only guarantor of prosperity and dignity of Muslims" which would be continued.

Meanwhile, a group of 160 Tajiks from the Republic of Tajikistan headed by Minister of the Press Bobokhon Makhmadov set out for Iran on Tuesday. Makhmadov is carrying a message from president of the ruling high council Imam 'Ali Rakhmanov for President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani. The message calls on Iran to further activate bilateral relations.

Deputy Foreign Minister Urged To Explain Remarks

NC0106113593 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 May 93 pp 1-2

[Editorial: "Reward for Mubarak?"]

[Text] Immediately after the tour of southern littoral Persian Gulf states by Husni Mubarak, the Camp David president of Egypt, Mahmud Faraj, head of the office in charge of Egypt's interests in Tehran, met our Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati. During this meeting, the office head reportedly briefed Behsarati on his country's views on various international issues, the Middle East, Persian Gulf security, and various other problems of mutual concern and said his country was interested in removing the obstacles to bilateral relations. The same report added: Besharati expressed his gratitude and hope that the problems between Islamic governments would be solved under Islamic principles and fraternity.

1. The principle of the meeting is questionable, because, although such meetings are very common within the framework of diplomatic etiquette, that etiquette required the Egyptian diplomat to meet a low-ranking official from our foreign ministry to brief him on Mubarak's trip, in view of his mischief on that trip and the poison he spread against Iran.

2. The office head said his country wanted to remove the obstacles to bilateral relations, but did not specify what these obstacles are. Egypt may have its own idea about these obstacles, but Iran thinks there is one obstacle to bilateral relations—Egypt's is a Camp David regime. In his latest remarks, the Iranian president said that the severing of relations with Egypt is because the Egyptian regime accepts the Camp David agreement. Iran cannot ignore that there has been no change in this stance, so establishing Tehran-Cairo relations is impossible.

This is a principled stance and on this basis, the Egyptian Government should remove the obstacle to clear the road to relations.

3. The report's reference to the deputy foreign minister's gratitude can be understood only if the office head promised that his government is trying to remove the obstacle. Otherwise, why the gratitude? The deputy foreign minister can't have wanted to thank Mubarak for the anti-Iranian poison he spread during his recent tour. So, it would only be right for the people to understand the reasons for the gratitude.

4. The deputy foreign minister expressed the hope that the problems between "Islamic governments" could be solved under "Islamic principles and fraternity." His hope would have been justifiable if the Egyptian regime was an "Islamic government" and if the leaders of the Cairo regime had displayed their respect for "Islamic principles and fraternity," if only for a moment.

Who doesn't know the Egyptian regime is an anti-Islamic American puppet regime? Can a regime that is contaminated by the Camp David agreement and whose hands are stained with the blood of the Islamic revolutionary children be considered an "Islamic government" in the diplomatic vocabulary of the Islamic Republic?! Can we consider ourselves to be the "brothers" of filthy pawns like Husni Mubarak, who have mastered the task assigned to them by the Zionist agents in the region?! And can we talk of "Islamic principles and fraternity" with dependent and mercenary elements who have come to power merely because of their service to America, their commitment to the occupying Zionist regime, and their sacrifice of Egypt's revolutionary and Muslim nation at the altar of Zionism?! Do we intend to reward Mubarak for all his crimes against the Muslims and for his mischief against Iran?!

5. Since we know the Islamic Republic's stances are that it does not accept Israel's existence and continues the struggle until the occupying regime is annihilated and since we know there can be no relations between Iran and Egypt as long as the Egyptian regime has not left the Camp David agreement, the only justification for the deputy foreign minister's remarks is that the news of his meeting with the head of the office in charge of Egypt's interests in Tehran was not accurate and that the remarks that were reported were not his. High-ranking foreign ministry officials are more precise in what they say and respect the grandeur and pride of the holy system of Iran in their stances.

On this basis, the foreign ministry officials are expected to be more careful when they compile political news reports. More alert people should prepare such reports, and an explanation of the meeting by the esteemed deputy foreign minister will help to remove the doubts that have arisen so that this news won't be exploited.

Khamene'i Receives Majles Speaker, Deputies

LD2905124593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 May 93

[Excerpts] On the anniversary of the foundation of the Majles, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the eminent leader of the Islamic Revolution, received the Majles speaker and deputies this morning. The meeting took place in the Hoseyniyeh [former residence] of Imam Khomeyni, may peace be upon him.

At the meeting, the eminent leader described legislation and careful scrutiny of the implementation of laws as a crucial and sensitive duty of the Majles deputies. [passage omitted]

His eminence the leader refuted claims that the revolution's values and the imam's objectives are fading away, and described such claims as baseless propaganda disseminated by foreign media. He stressed: The Islamic system of Iran is founded upon the revolution's principles and those principles set forth by the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise. We do not want to become the same as other political systems. Instead we obey Islam and the revolution; these values will always remain alive. This is because adherence to Islamic and revolutionary values is the only thing which preserves the strength of our Islamic system in the face of the enemies. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i placed stress on the necessity to pay attention to the deprived strata, and to spread social justice in relation to economic issues. He said: In the first place the deprived strata of society must receive attention. Economic growth is not our only objective. Any economic program is only valid when its aims bring society nearer to social justice. The Majles must be attentive to this important issue. [passage omitted]

The eminent leader referred to the approaching presidential elections. He said: The Majles deputies must consider themselves as dutybound to inform people about the importance and sensitivity of the forthcoming elections, and the importance of the nation's participation. [passage omitted]

Stresses Adherence to Khomeyni's Ideals

LD2905142893 Tehran IRNA in English 1356 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i today described elections in Islamic Iran as "popular" and dismissed foreign allegations that they have lost attraction for the people. The ayatollah in his meeting with a group of Majlis (parliament) deputies on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the establishment of the house of elected representatives, said: "The Majlis today is neither made up of aristocrats nor landowners, people voted for their candidates of choice with full knowledge and that the most normal form of elections have been recorded in Islamic Iran."

"Thanks God, elections in Iran after the Islamic revolution have been the soundest and the most realistic of its kind throughout the world with the masses turning out with interest and enthusiasm", he added. He brushed aside as "baseless insinuations", the foreign media's claim that ideals of the revolution and the guidelines of the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, have become pale. "The principles of Iran's Islamic system are those of the revolution laid down by the late imam," said the leader.

Ayatollah Khamene'i continued that the Iranian Government did not intend to follow the rules of other systems. Rather, it obeys Islamic and revolutionary values, because, he commented, "they were eternal and lasting". Adherence to Islamic and revolutionary values, were the sole factors guaranteeing strength of Iran's Islamic system, he concluded.

Nateq-Nuri Reelected Majles Speaker

LD3005105193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] During today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majles], Mr. Nateq-Nuri was reelected as the Majles speaker with 195 votes out of a total of 210 votes. Hasan Ruhani and Mohammad 'Ali Movvahedi-Kermani were appointed as first and second deputy speakers respectively. During the same session Majles deputies also approved an article of the bill on the management of the Islamic Republic of Iran's free trade and industrial zones.

According to our parliamentary correspondent, during today's open session of the Majles a letter signed by more than 145 deputies was read out which condemned the action taken by the Saudi Arabian Government preventing the holding of the disavowal of the infidels ceremonies.

Presidential Candidates Deliver Campaign Speeches

Taheri Views Economic Issues

LD3005011593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1700 GMT 29 May 93

[Speech by presidential candidate Rajabali Taheri; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] As the noble nation of Iran knows, four people out of 128 have been introduced as candidates for presidency, one of whom is I, Rajabali Taheri. To begin with it is necessary to introduce myself to a certain extent.

I was born in 1936 in a laborer's household in Kazerun. I completed my elementary school studies in Kazerun and secondary school in Shiraz. While studying I always helped my father to earn our living. In 1956, after obtaining my secondary school diploma in mathematics, I entered the technical faculty of the Tehran University to study civil engineering. In 1961 I graduated and started in development and engineering work, including the Ministry of Roads, and some work at the front and the war.

From political and campaigning points of view, in my youth, that is in 1950, at the same time as the nationalization of the oil industry, I started my struggles against the regime and for nationalizing the oil industry.

The next year, that is in 1951, when the 30th of Tir revolution occurred I had an active part in that revolution.

After the 28th of Mordad coup d'etat [12 August 1951], and that winter I was arrested for distributing information against the monarchy, the premiership of Zahedi, the ignominious Consortium Agreement—which was a colonial agreement—as well as the Baghdad Treaty. Following that I was again imprisoned for the same reason for 70 days in 1964.

In 1965-66, when I came to Tehran I became acquainted with Ayatollah Taleqani, the Hedayat Mosque, and the Islamic Association of the Tehran University. During that period I strived for the expansion and development of cultural activities and Islamic associations, including the formation of the Islamic Association at Shiraz University at that time.

At the same time, with the fall and extinguishing of the [word indistinct] of the National Front, the struggles of the clerics movement and the clergy started and from 1962, the beginning of the clerics movement led by the His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may God's blessing be upon him—the activities of our second phase started.

In this phase—I am going to be brief so that I can speak on views, projects, and programs for, God willing, the salvation of the country—in this stage of the struggle we formed a group, the majority of whom were students from Tehran University. The group, in coordination with other Islamic groups, formed a society with the name of the Islamic Coalition Association [Jami'yat-e Mo'talefe-e Eslami] and we were active. This led to the 5 June [1963] events and the activity continued in various forms until the victory of the revolution.

During these periods I was arrested nine times and imprisoned for a number of years in many prisons, including Qasr, Evin, and Qezel-qal'eh and on a number of occasions I was tortured. Prisons had their own particular issues which can be recalled but which I will leave out due to a lack of time. In other words in the prisons we had ideological struggles with the Marxists and the Mojahedin-e Khalq. This was an important chapter.

Let me recall a few examples of the works carried out before the revolution, in which I had a leadership position. One was the takeover of the Shiraz Savak which was one of the strongest Savak centers of the royal regime and the first Savak to fall. Here the planning was with me and the documents obtained from that Savak were cabled to his excellency the imam [Khomeyni] in Paris and from those documents his excellency the imam became aware of many plots and on this basis issued communiques.

Then it was the disarming of the police stations on 11 February [1979], the takeover of the police headquarters and finally the fall of the army and military headquarters of Fars [Province]. This had a decisive effect on the fall of the whole regime. The fall of the Shiraz police headquarters was a beginning for the downfall of the whole royal system.

In the first stage following the revolution I was the representative [kazerun] at the Islamic Consultative Assembly. Before then I was responsible for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps for Shiraz and Fars. At the initial stage I entered the Majles from Kazerun. In the four-year Majles period my pre-agenda speeches and my programs were numerous—there is no time to state them—not to mention the fact that I introduced a plan for the country's economy and for improving the country's economy, which can still be found in the pre-agenda speeches.

This very issue of a single currency rate which thank God is taking shape and which has one or two problems which, God willing, once solved will let the matter settle... [pauses] We shall witness that the fall of the foreign currency and our money [as heard] is a success and victory. At any rate these issues, the economic issues, solutions to the economic issues were on my mind from that time.

For the second part of my talk I shall discuss the plans. Let me tell you another point: After the first Majles session I was constantly cooperating with the front, the war, and the Revolutionary Guards, and thus I saw my duty to serve the Islamic Republic system. There are many instances but this is no place to mention them; there is no time.

As for the programs: As I recited a verse at the beginning of my speech, the principle of my program stems from that blessed verse. [passage omitted] As is clear from the meaning of the verse, the purpose of sending forth the prophets and the revelation of the books is justice. What mankind seeks is justice, social justice. Ever since the time when I knew myself, God gave me the opportunity to struggle with the system 27 years ago, against the monarchy system merely so that the idolater regime—which entails tyranny—is toppled and, God willing, a regime of Islamic justice is established.

My principle motive was just that and the reason for my registering my name for the presidency is again the same motive since again I saw that on the whole in our economic system the justice which Islam wants, the justice that the people seek does not exist; it is deficient; there are deficiencies and problems. That is also why I registered my name.

Again, my aim does not differ at all from the past. In the past I sought justice and struggled against the idol, but today for justice we must cooperate with the Islamic Republic system, strengthen it and step forward so that, God willing, justice exists all over the country in all its aspects.

As for the blessed Koranic verse: It has specified the path of justice and the instruments of justice from which programs stem. Three important instruments are required for social justice to be established and if we do not utilize those three instruments or utilize them partially, once again we will have no justice. First is the book. [passage omitted]

Initially, after the prophet himself. the imams and the saints and prophets who have brought books for us, divine books, the last of which is the Koran. This is the first instrument. The book which is a compilation of divine laws for this and the other world and the development and exaltation of mankind is the Koran. This first instrument must be utilized in the best possible manner.

Then is the scale. Of course this is no place to delve into a deep interpretation of the verse. It suffices to deal with the apparent aspect of this verse of the Koran, and the apparent aspect of our community which seeks justice otherwise inwardly. Also, there are issues in the verse for mankind's development which I set aside.

Second is the scale. A scale is an instrument for comparing, for measuring. At any time and for any object there is need for a scale. For exchange, for installments, for apportioning, a pair of scales is required. First there is a need for regulations and a book and in the second stage an instrument for measuring, dividing, and apportioning. For example, suppose there is a piece of land which must be divided among several individuals. Justice requires that each should get his share. Here there is a need for an instrument with which to carry out the division such that there is no injustice. So after the book comes the scales, the instrument for dividing the share, for measuring.

Then there is the third stage or the third instrument which is also needed for justice to be implemented and for the people to benefit—since the people's interests lie in justice. [passage omitted] The third one is Hadid [Koranic chapter, meaning "iron"], which entails debate and power as well as benefits.

In our time, the property of Hadid is quite clear to all. In our time Hadid has been transformed into technology. In general terms it is technology. At the time of the divine inspiration of the verse Hadid meant scimitar, spade, pick-axe, etc.—which once again mankind made tremendous use of for defense of his sanctities as well as for his interests and livelihood.

The technology which God has put at the disposal of mankind, has created for mankind, the creation of Hadid and whatever there is in its properties and technology and metals, the combination is today termed technology. [passage omitted]

Therefore we must put to use the divine book, the Koran, without making any changes in it, making any interpretations by consent [tafsir-e be ra'i] as the first law [zabeteh]. Second is the issue of the scale and the third technology. My main discussion and program is the scale. [passage omitted]

Let me tell you something here. Before His Holiness Noah, scales, the instruments for comparing and weighing, did not exist among mankind. Mankind had the primitive family life and barter. But since there used to be difficulties in affairs, God brought a scale for His Holiness Noah by Gabriel, whether like his shipbuilding, which was by divine will...[pauses] Anyhow the scales, the instrument for comparison was put at the disposal of mankind by His Holiness Noah so that when they made deals, they could observe justice by using scales. They measured so that there was no injustice.

Then, during the time of His Holiness Sho'eyb, the community deviated. The main deviation of the community was economic. The deviation of Lot's tribe was sexual, but the deviation of the Sho'eyb's tribe—after Lot's tribe—was an economic deviation and in that they made changes in what they weighed and measured, which they should not have done.

Well, as I told you before the Hadid sura, the Hadid verse, has the primitive form of iron and metals but its evolved form is today's technology. Today's technology should be utilized for mankind's interest as well as defense.

At the time of His Excellency Noah, the simplest measure was the two-sided scale. If they wanted to exchange something like a watermelon they would find a weight and would weigh it so it would be just. But today we have a measure for everything. It is the meter for length or various counters for the electricity. The main measure for economics was once barter, then the coin, then money, and then the bank note. Today in the world and in our country it is our money, the rial, the banking regulations and the money circulation in society.

If a scale is not set properly it fools us and does injustice. In the same way, if the volume and value of money is not stable it will constantly cause injustice in society. It will be a fault in the measure. It is like a man who has 50 liters of milk and who adds a liter of water as soon as he sells a liter. This repeats itself. Gradually, the milk loses its thickness. Here he is deceiving, exploiting, or breaking the law, all which are forbidden in Islam.

Our financial system, which is our financial measure, is suffering from a disease, and my first program is the reform and healing of the financial and credit system of the country. I would like to seriously tell the dear Iranian nation and the viewers that until this disease is healed and until our money has a stable value, nothing will improve and we will face inflation increasing daily, monthly, and yearly. So first of all is the reform of the money and credit regulation. Our money is not free. Money should be free to find its value. It must have a support.

The support for our money is, of course, oil. Our biggest wealth is oil. On all our oil trade agreements we should add an article and announce to the Gulf, to Iran, to all capitalists, and to all companies that we shall sell our oil in rials. What would be wrong with that? To sell our oil in rials. These people from the Gulf, the buyers will come, buy, and then sell it themselves. The agreements that are in dollar and in barter terms will of course stand. Oil is ours. Why should our money be smuggled so that no one is allowed to take out more than 2,000 tomans outside the country? Or if he did he would not be able to bring it back. To bring it home. Money must become free and international. If we free our own money and value it with the support of oil, our money will become international. People will not go chasing dollars. So my first program, the revolutionary economic principle, is to reform the money credit regulation.

Second is the reform of the banking law. There are problems with our banking law. For one thing all the exchanges must leave the unrealistic conditions and become realistic. Limited partnership must be real limited partnership. It is correct that in Islam setting conditions at the time of agreement is necessary but it can not be that we make a decision and people are forced to accept it. People come to borrow from the bank but the bank sets such and such a policy. In the Hadid chapter [of the Koran] the pure and lofty God has emphasized interest-free banking. In three sections of the Hadid chapter interest-free banking is emphasized. Interest-free banking does not mean that a few rich men lend to a few poor neighbors. Interest-free banking is the first duty of the government. Interest-free banking must rule in all parts of the country. When there is interest-free banking inflation will disappear. This is clear.

I shall leave the remainder of my talk for the next session.

Jasbi Discusses Economy

LD3105193893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1016 GMT 31 May 93

[Address by presidential candidate 'Abdollah Jasbi; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I will be devoting my first radio program to economic issues and my second radio program to cultural and political topics. Today, as far as time allows, I will talk to you about economic issues.

You obviously expect me to deal with acute issues such as high prices, inflation, and economic problems that the people are facing. Very well, I will deal with these, too. But I believe that we must analyze economic issues within the framework of long-term plans. [passage omitted]

I believe there may be two important reasons for what our people face today: inflation and high prices. One reason is economic adjustment and the move toward a single-rate foreign exchange; the other reason is the weakness in our control systems. I do not believe that there has been any complacency in connection with the first issue; instead, I believe that by economic adjustment and the single-rate foreign exchange policy, the government has taken long and firm steps toward reforming our economic structure. At present, that structure is sick.

Eight years of war, as well as what we inherited from the prerevolutionary regime, have presented us with a sick economic structure. During the last four or five years, the new government has tried to reform that structure, and it has, in fact, taken a major step this year.

In my opinion, foreign exchange rate unification and economic adjustment are inevitable as far as reforming our economic structure is concerned, and we must not in any way put a question mark over it. I can even say that the regime's officials and the president are actually being selfless by taking this step, because they are exposing themselves to all kinds of accusations as they pursue the reform in that structure. However, alongside this issue, there is a second problem: the weakness in control systems. This is something that the people have the right to find fault with and to object to.

My belief is that part of the inflation that we witness in our society today is caused by implementation of policies of economic adjustment and unification of the foreign exchange rate. This is something that the country's economic officials must come forward and explain to the people. If our people have an adequate explanation, they will accept the realities and will be ready to make any sacrifice so that their country's economy moves toward a healthy state.

I believe that there has been complacency with regard to the second issue, which weakness in the control systems. If these systems are well designed and executed correctly, some high prices will be eliminated, and in my opinion, the government must take steps in this area.

In order to clarify the issue a bit more, I shall refer to one of the fundamental economic policies, called monetary and foreign exchange policy. You are aware that today the Central Bank and the banks as a whole are one of the important economic levers in monetary and foreign currency fields, and the government can, by this means, control its monetary and currency problems.

With regard to foreign exchange, there are two points of view. The first view believes that the real price of foreign exchange is more than what it is now. Generally, this view is based on the issue of supply and demand. Those holding the second view believe that the real price of foreign exchange is less than what it is now, and this view refers more to the purchasing power of foreign exchange, the power to purchase commodities and services with foreign exchange. I agree with the latter view. Of course, this is not the place where we can analyze economic issues properly in such a short time. I am ready to sit down with the country's economic officials and fully discuss this issue over several sessions.

I believe that the real price of foreign exchange is less than what is now being sold in the foreign exchange market. This is because I believe that we have to determine the real price of foreign exchange more through the purchasing power of foreign exchange and less through the supply and demand of foreign exchange in the market. If they give you $10 today and you want to buy goods and services with this in Iran, how much goods can you buy? But if you were to spend this same $10 in foreign countries, you would certainly get fewer goods for this amount of money. This means that the real price of foreign exchange is less than the price that we have set on it in this society. I cannot say exactly right now what the real price is—whether it is 100 tomans [one toman equals 10 rials] less than this or more—but I can certainly say that it is very much less than what is being supplied in the market.

Those who say that the real price of foreign exchange is this existing one, or more than this, draw attention to the question of supply and demand and the need to review this issue. I believe that the question of supply and demand in our country cannot form the real basis for the price of foreign exchange. Why? Because in the foreign exchange market, almost all foreign exchange—I say almost, because a small percentage is used in the non-state sector—almost all foreign exchange is in the government's hands. That is, foreign exchange, in the true sense of the word, is being obtained from the sale of oil and some other products that are also under control of the government, and this foreign exchange is also being spent by state sector organs. Therefore, the control of foreign exchange expenditure and control of consumption of foreign exchange is in the hands of the Central Bank completely.

So, if the Central Bank strengthens its control mechanisms a little, it can easily steer the course of foreign exchange consumption in the direction it wants. Because of this—and I cannot elaborate here—I believe that the price of foreign exchange is much less than that what is being supplied right now, and I think that the Central Bank has been negligent in the past few months. It should not have permitted a sudden rise of 20 percent in the price of foreign exchange.

In truth, with the weakness in the control system and 20 percent rise in the price of foreign exchange, we can say that this has damaged the government's correct and logical policy of opting for a single rate of exchange and economic adjustment. It has also undermined the country's economic market, and many prices rose irrationally. Here, too, we can see the weaknesses of the control systems.

To correct this issue, I suggest that the government, while continuing to move toward the establishment of the single rate of exchange and economic adjustment, should also strengthen its control systems. The Central Bank should persevere and not allow the price of foreign exchange to rise. This is not a very difficult thing for the Central Bank to accomplish. Of course, I have more suggestions as to how they may be able to control more effectively the supply and demand of foreign exchange, but I shall reserve these for the sections on trade.

Another issue that I have to mention with regard to monetary and exchange policies is that today in the Islamic Republic, banks have become a monopolist complex. This does not benefit the country's economy and has allowed the banks to provide public services without efficiency and at a higher cost than necessary. I believe that the Central Bank should become fully independent, and the executing banks—which today act as branches of the Central Bank—should achieve relative independence and create healthy competition among themselves. Today there is no competition among the banks.

In reality, we can see that there is a single bank, the Central Bank, that has a number of branches that are the executing banks. But I think the executing banks should have relative independence, allowing competition among them, and that the Central Bank should not behave as an executing bank, but have full independence.

Meanwhile, credit institutions should enter the nonstate sector and create full healthy competition with the banks. Fortunately this has been proposed by the cabinet, approved by the Majles, and recently acknowledged by the Guardian Council [Shura-ye Negahban]. I believe the government should help the formation of credit institutions and strengthen their quick formation.

To clarify this issue I give an example. In the year 1371 [1992], we at the Free Islamic Azad University had an income of about 7 to 8 billion tomans in the bank. The bank has always held an average of 3 to 4 billion tomans, or a minimum of about one-fourth of this amount, for us. But to get credit from these very banks—in order to pay student loans or take out building loans—and despite orders from the president, despite various advice, despite various discussions with the gentlemen, and despite an agreement reached that they will provide us with a 4.5 billion toman loan with 12 percent interest, they gave us 1.2 billion tomans last year instead of the promised 4.5 billion tomans.

No matter how we try, we have not gotten anywhere. What is the problem? It is because there are no credit institutions or banks to compete with the Central Bank or other banks. They impose their views on us. However, if there was healthy competition among them, we would be able to chose the best, and they would make their system more efficient. This would benefit the country.

My proposal is: greater freedom and relative independence for the executive banks, creation of healthy competition, full independence for the Central Bank, establishment and expansion of credit institutions by the nonstate sector, and full control of the exchange rate by the Central Bank. Particularly at the present stage, while we are going through a transition period in economic adjustment and the establishment of a single rate of exchange, the Central Bank should not allow the constant fluctuation of the exchange rate in the market and particularly should not allow an increase in the price of foreign currency. Of course the bank's supervision on credit should encourage the use of credit for productive activity rather than consumption. This was a brief explanation on monetary and exchange policies.

Another issue in the economy is the financial and tax policy. You know that taxes are one of the main sources of income for the government. In other countries, taxes are the main source of provision for the government and the armed forces. Our tax income in the past four years increased by 40.7 percent and increased by 8.8 percent on average in the approved annual budgets.

On state revenue and expenditure, about 35 percent of the government's earning came from taxation in the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990]. This figure increased to 48.5 percent in the year 1371. In my opinion, the growth is favorable. We can say that half of the state's current budget is met through taxation. The existing method of tax collection is good. I do not believe that we should raise tax rates at this stage. However, I have two clear proposals for increasing taxation revenue, without asking people to pay more tax.

The first proposal is to launch a cultural education program by telling the people how the government spends the taxes they pay. By doing so, people would view tax payment as a positive gesture. At the time of the former regime, tax payment was viewed negatively. The people should become familiar with the tax paying culture as a justified move. I think the mass media can play a major role in this respect. The preachers and writers can also promote the taxation culture in society.

My second proposal is to computerize the tax collection system. Our problem today is that we still calculate and collect taxes with pen and paper. The fault of this system is that we cannot find many people who are eligible to pay tax. The system is also abused. In most countries of the world, the tax collection system, particularly for direct taxes, is computerized. We must definitely do the same. A computerized system will save labor and increase efficiency. It will also become much easier to keep records of various taxpayers. [passage omitted]

Let me now discuss trade. We had better separate domestic trade from foreign trade. Experience shows that Iranian trade favors exchange of foreign commodities. The main reasons are, first, the low rate of return from investment in the agricultural sector and industry and, second, the high rate of return from dealing in foreign goods. Naturally, a shortage of a commodity pushes up its price and brings higher profit to those dealing in such commodities. Imported foreign goods come under this category. The problem with our market is that it is not homogenous. That is, certain regions are saturated with an item, while another region might face shortage.

I believe that in order to set up a national market and guide this market toward domestic products, you have to seriously prevent the import of foreign goods that are not absolutely essential, especially because this issue leads to further losses in the long run. Consumers acquire a taste for foreign goods. This is an important issue in economics; it will lead to situations where we will have cultural problems in trying to replace foreign products with domestic ones. This is in connection with domestic trade.

When I talked in connection with foreign exchange and said that the Central Bank should adopt certain control mechanisms that are easy to do, since all foreign exchange is in the hands of the government, one way of doing it is this: We should not allow every kind of commodity to enter the country; we should only allow commodities that the country needs.

As for foreign trade, I believe that economic privatization has to be accompanied with free foreign trade. But, in the process of transition from a pre-revolution society to an Islamic society and, now, the move from the agricultural stage to the industrial one, the goods that are to be imported should conform, first, to our Islamic culture and, second, should be truly needed by the country. [passage omitted]

In the industrial sector, I believe that one of the overall policies of the government, which is, in reality, one of privatization, is a correct policy. Of course, this concerns all sectors. But the government should be careful in this privatization drive. As far as education, higher education, and education and welfare is concerned, the more the government supports the transfer to the nonstate sector, the more the economy will benefit and the more it will not create any serious problems. In the industrial sector, the government should be careful that the transfer to the private sector is accompanied by a series of controls to prevent any undesirable consequences. I shall try and clarify the issue.

The government may at some point say, look here, I would like to turn these 10 or 20 factories over to the private sector. It should take care when doing this to note, first, what the cost of this transfer is and to avoid the development of certain circumstances that will turn the real cost into a pseudo-cost and then turn it over. Second, after the factories are privatized, what they intend to do, and how do they want to manage it? Because we are not aiming to privatize for the sake of privatization. This is a means to increase productivity. If we transfer to the private sector, we should see if the new owners really want to increase efficiency and have the power to do so, or if they want to tear the factory apart and sell it in the free market for profit.

This is an important issue. We should not look at privatization as an objective, but as a means. Because of this, I have a specific proposal. First, we should transfer some production units to the nonstate sector instead of selling them right from the beginning. The nonstate sector should take over management and then gradually pay the government for the cost and expenditures of that factory from the profits and benefits. This means that while the government is selling that factory or production unit, it controls the productivity and efficiency. [passage omitted]

If some workers are supposed to become unemployed in this process, then the government should give them technical and professional training and use them elsewhere.

So much for the industrial sector. Of course I have a lot to say about the industrial sector, especially the oil and petrochemical industries, but there is not much time, and I have to move on to the agricultural and housing sector.

I will say a few words about the housing issue and present two clear proposals. Then I will move to the agricultural sector. At the present time, we must admit that in previous years the housing problem has remained acute. The basket of commodities that the Central Bank assesses shows that right now what our people have to spend on housing is very high compared with housing costs in other countries. We must ensure that housing costs for a family take away only a reasonable percentage of their total living costs, that is, something like 20 to 25 percent, whereas now a significant part of living costs is eaten up by expenditure on housing.

This has brought about real pressure on families. I have two proposals in connection with housing. Of course, I have other proposals, and I would have liked very much to talk about them, but this is not possible within this short period of time.

My first proposal, which I have already mentioned in my talk about cultural issues but which I intend to repeat, is that the government should take a step that can resolve some of the housing problems, as well as problems that face the young. Today, an significant proportion of our young—and you know the young comprise one-third of our population—have reached the age of marriage. If we want to confront the cultural onslaught, the only way is for these young people to get married. [passage omitted]

In this way, we would solve the problems of the young to some extent—by dealing with the issue of marriage, which will, in effect, break the back of the cultural onslaught. In the second place, if every year we built something like 150,000 residential units for the young, the cost of housing would be reduced. This means that we will have managed to break the back of housing costs. We certainly can reduce this cost by a significant percentage, if not to half of what it is today.

My second proposal is that, at present, we have millions of square meters of land lying idle all over the country that are at the disposal of government organizations, revolutionary bodies, government-affiliated institutions, companies, and organizations. They are either left half built, or they are completed and are waiting to be sold at high prices. They were kept so that their prices would go up with inflation.

The government must act, and through legislation in the Majles or by any other means, it should put a time limit on it. All the empty plots at the disposal of institutions, organizations, ministries must be sold by a given time so that they can be used. We should not overlook the important effect it would have on the country's economy if millions of square meters are utilized in social activities.

Please permit me to talk about agricultural policies for a few minutes and then end my speech. In the agricultural sector, our country has plentiful resources with which it could provide its agricultural needs and even be an exporter of agricultural products; but this is not the case at the moment. We are importing 2 or 3 million tonnes of wheat a year. Of course, the subsidy the government is giving to farmers to produce wheat is a very appropriate and logical thing. Whatever the government pays out in this respect is, in my view, appropriate and correct. By increasing that payment to farmers, we should, God willing, increase our agricultural output.

In connection with water and soil, I would say that an important portion of our country's water is not utilized at present and is wasted. Instead of being used for agricultural purposes, it is destroying our cities. We have 400 billion cubic meters of precipitation a year, 70 percent of which evaporates. Of the 120 billion cubic meters that remains, there are 85 billion cubic meters on the ground and 35 billion cubic meters underground that could be collected. In the agriculture sector, we are using 75 billion cubic meters of water, which is an increase of 5 billion cubic meters compared with previous years. Of course, that is good, but it is not enough. A portion of this water is used for drinking—about 4.3 billion cubic meters. The rest, that is, 34 percent of the 120 billion cubic meters, is wasted. And not only is nothing being done with it, it is also causing destruction throughout the country. We must make plans to deal with this matter.

In connection with soil, we should note that we have not yet used a major portion of our agricultural lands all over the country. I wish to comment on that, but there is no time. I will just say a few things about wheat and then end my speech.

In connection with wheat, the government is now delivering 7.5 million tonnes of wheat annually to bakers. The government is paying 210 rials for every kilo of this amount of wheat and receiving 35 rials in return. This really means that the government is spending annually something in the vicinity of 132 billion tomans in subsidies. If we divide this among each Iranian, the government is spending about 2,300 to 2,400 tomans per person each year in bread subsidies.

I have two suggestions with regard to the question of bread. Of course there is more to discuss, but there is no time, and I shall only discuss the proposals. Twenty percent of the bread being produced is thrown away—this is the figure that has been unanimously agreed upon, although some people talk of 30 and 40 percent. This imposes a huge sum on us. Our wheat consumption annually is 11 to 12 tonnes. Of course, I said that the government places 7.5 tonnes at the disposal of bakers, and we do have a category of subsistence farmers. But on the whole, 11 to 12 tonnes of wheat are being consumed. If you count 20 percent of it at $150 per tonne then you will find that we are throwing away something in the region of $370 million, or 60 billion tomans. Yes, some of this is turned into fodder, but that is nothing when it is compared with this huge figure. My specific proposal is that the government make use of the money that we are throwing away in one year—this 60 billion tomans—in the form of two kinds of loans.

First, loans to mechanize our bakeries so that bread baked in them will not be thrown away. Second, loans to train bakery workers and, generally, bakers and their workers all over the country. If the government spends that 60 billion tomans in these two areas in the course of one year, I am sure that this 20 percent that is wasted now will reach zero or a very low figure, and we could, in this connection save something like eight times the budget of the whole of the Islamic Free University, which has 350,000 students per year. We have to go after these savings so that, God willing, the country's economy will become healthy and so that the country's economic problems are solved.

Once again, I announce that the policies of the government as a whole, in relation to the single rate of exchange, privatization, and economic adjustment, are correct policies that have to be followed with strength. But, in practice, the system of control has to be strengthened. We should not allow a few people to take advantage during this transition period and bring pressure on people, workers, and civil servants in this way.

God willing, I shall talk about cultural issues in my next program.

Ahmad Khomeyni Urges Media To Expose Weak Points

LD2905104693 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 28 IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, son of the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni, underscored the vital role news media, news agencies in particular, played in the contemporary era. He made the remark in a meeting with Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) managing director, Fereydun Vardinejad and a group of directors and chief editors of the agency on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the imam's decease, June 4.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni said that news organizations of the country should tread in a direction that neither the Islamic revolution nor the republic be deviated from their real path. The idea that weakpoints should not be exposed because it would weaken the Islamic Republic was a mistake, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni noted, adding that on the contrary to criticize an improper move or policy would be support for the Islamic Republic.

Addressing IRNA officials, he stressed that people expected their viewpoints be reflected in news reports and noted that the biggest weakpoint of a news agency in a society was that foreign news media speak on behalf of their people. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni reiterated that the stickyard [as received] to identify falsehood from truth was the guidelines of the revolution's leader, noting that instructions of the leadership were the final word in all fields.

He hailed promotion of media in Iran both in terms of quality and quantity and said they enjoyed extensive freedom, adding that freedom of expression was a major factor for development and growth in every revolutionary society.

Prior to Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni's speech, IRNA managing director said that the agency's policy was based on echoing message of the Islamic revolution, with all its potentials, to the outside world. IRNA would try to convey message of the Islamic revolution beyond the borders while relying on the Islamic values, divine faith and advanced technology. He further elaborated on current activities and procedure at the organization and briefed Hojjat ol- Eslam Khomeyni on the formation of a headquarters at IRNA to cover events pertaining to the fourth anniversary of the late imam's decease.

Yazdi Orders Death Penalty for 'Decadent' Video Dealers

NC3005144593 Paris AFP in English 1434 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 30 (AFP)—Distributors of pornographic video cassettes and un-Islamic dress in Iran will face the death penalty, Iranian Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said in published statements on Sunday [30 May].

Yazdi, in a statement quoted by the Iranian press, said the law will severely deal with "those who promote anti-Islamic culture" in bid to stem western influence.

"The distributors of decadent videos and indecent clothing, offensive to the public, will be given the highest punishment," he said.

Iran has been ruled by shari'ah, Islamic law, since the 1979 Islamic revolution which toppled the pro-western shah. According to shari'ah, the "highest punishment" means the death penalty.

Yazdi's announcement came amid increasing pressure from conservative groups to fully enforce Islamic law and curb the flow of western culture into the country.

Several public mass prayers have been in recent months to urge women to fully observe the Islamic dress code, which calls on them to cover up from head to toe in a black robe. [sentence as received] Newspapers have also demanded the closure of boutiques displaying western-style attire.

Iranian religious leaders have waged a relentless campaign against symbols of western culture ever since the revolution. As part of this campaign, women have to abide by the Islamic dress code while imports of most western movies have been banned. But many foreign-made movies are smuggled into the country and widely circulated to meet increasing demand.

Pakistan

Sharif Hopes Reconciliation Talks Yield Good Results

BK0106143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] It was officially stated in Islamabad today that president of the Awami National Party, Mr. Ajmal Khattak, has been included in the reconciliation committee to hold talks with the opposition to bring about political stability in the country. The committee was constituted by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. The other members of the committee are retired Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, and Mir Hashim Bizenjo. The prime minister had announced the committee yesterday during his speech in the National Assembly while making a dialogue offer to the opposition for reconciliation on issues facing the country. The leader of the opposition, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, responded positively to the offer, saying political issues should be resolved through negotiations. The reconciliation move by the prime minister and the positive opposition response have been widely welcomed by people from all walks of life.

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has expressed the hope that the reconciliation talks with the opposition will yield positive results. Talking to newsmen in Rawalpindi today, he said undemocratic elements would not be able to sabotage these efforts.

Editorial Praises Sharif, Bhutto

BK0106114193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Jun 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Eid Gift From PM Nawaz Sharif and Ms Benazir Bhutto"]

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's offer of conciliation and cooperation to the Opposition made during a short but heart-winning speech in the National Assembly Monday night was accepted with matching spontaneity and grace by the leader of the Opposition, Ms Benazir Bhutto. It was a memorable moment and one which could open a new chapter in the political history of the country. Mr Nawaz Sharif spoke like a man capable of rising above petty bickerings which has embittered the general climate for so long. And Ms Benazir Bhutto promised to clasp the hand of amity offered. What made Mr Nawaz Sharif's gesture almost impossible to spurn was that he moved on from generalities to specifics. He announced that "vindictive steps" taken at the expense of the Opposition would be withdrawn. He was obviously talking of the "references" made to the courts, implicating certain People's Party leaders, including Ms Benazir's husband Mr Asif Zardari by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan purportedly on the advice of former caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. The references had been a nasty stumbling block, perventing conciliation between the government and the Opposition. But it should not go without being noted that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan is the inventor of this pernicious device to drive a deep cleavage between the two main political forces in the country and it was a legacy Mr Nawaz Sharif had inherited. Mr Nawaz Sharif has also spoken reassuringly about the need to carry out some amendments in the Constitution. This was unmistakably a reference to the disreputable Eighth Amendment. To be fair, let us recognise the fact that when Mr Nawaz Sharif had earlier spoken positively on this point in a speech in the Senate, Ms Benazir's response was not helpful. The PM had actually stuck his neck out, and got badly mauled by the President. It is good that Mr Nawaz Sharif's offer to settle this issue amicably with the Opposition was without any reference to Ms Benazir Bhutto's earlier failure to respond. It was certainly very sensible of him to avoid scoring any points. In her reply to Prime Minister's speech, which should go down in our history as a landmark, Ms Benazir was not wanting in grace. She began by congratulating the Prime Minister, evidently over his victory in the battle of survival forced upon him and the democratic process by the presidential intervention dissolving the National Assembly and the Federal Government. She did speak of some grievances of the Opposition, more to explain its reactions than to accuse anyone. Appreciating Mr Nawaz Sharif's new look policy of an overall and abiding understanding with the Opposition, Ms Benazir Bhutto promised to work for a constructive engagement. She wanted that the process of appointments to higher judicial offices should be transparently upright. This is a matter on which Premier Nawaz Sharif owes it to himself and the country an adequate response. One of the most significant points made by Ms Benazir was to concede that if the Prime Minister had a formula to sort out the basic issues, including the timing of general elections, she was quite willing to consider that.

Monday night's proceedings in the National Assembly provided exactly the kind of balm the nation needed after being so crushingly mangled by the recent indiscretions of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan who began by dissolving the National Assembly and national government and went on to disrupt and then liquidate the provincial assemblies in Punjab and NWFP [North-West Frontier Province]. These two issues are, however, before the respective high courts and one must wait for their verdicts. The speeches of the PM and the leader of the Opposition brought out in clear focus where the rub really had been all this while, keeping the government and the Opposition virtually at daggers drawn. Let us hope that the country has come out of that long, dark night of knives into the sunshine of political sanity. The nation should thank both Mr Nawz Sharif and Ms Benazir for making this Eid a really happy one. The people of Pakistan went last night to sleep with promise not only of sweet dreams but also of relishable realities. Both of them have done the nation proud as our leaders have seldom done in the past. Happy days.

Sharif Appoints Special Assistant, Press Secretary

BK0206023693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister has appointed Moshahid Hussain Syed as his special assistant. He will enjoy the status of minister. Meanwhile, Siddiqul Farooq has assumed the post of the prime minister's press secretary.

Sharif Urges Kashmir Solution for Normal Ties With India

BK0106145893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] In an interview with the SAUDI GAZETTE in Islamabad today, the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad

Nawaz Sharif, said Pakistan strongly believes that relations between India and Pakistan cannot normalize unless Kashmir problem is solved according to UN resolutions. India should take practical steps to implement United Nations resolutions in letter and spirit to solve the Kashmir issue. He regretted that India is not fulfilling its international commitment regarding Kashmir. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said India is committing atrocities on innocent Kashmiris in the occupied valley. Gang rapes, looting, and cases of arson have become the order of the day. All these gross violations of basic rights are before the world community. The prime minister said the struggle in Kashmir is indigenous and there is no interference from any side.

Foreign Ministry Secretary Meets French Counterpart

BK3105035393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Pakistan and France held the first round of foreign secretary level talks on international, regional, and bilateral matters in Islamabad yesterday. The talks covered the situation in occupied Kashmir, Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. French Foreign Affairs Secretary General (Serge Beudivaux), who is currently in Islamabad on a two-day visit to Pakistan, is representing his country at the talks. The second round of talks will be held today.

Foreign Affairs Secretary General Akram Zaki told his French counterpart that Pakistan fully supports the reduction of tension in the region and it has made several proposals to India for this purpose. He said the most important and core issue between the two countries is the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Akram Zaki said the Indian troops are committing barbaric crimes and serious violations of human rights in occupied Kashmir. He asked the permanent members of the Security Council to force India to enter into a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan to solve the Kashmir issue on the basis of the Security Council resolution. He briefed the French secretary general about Pakistan's firm commitment to nuclear nonproliferation and referred to proposals put forward by Pakistan in connection with keeping South Asia free from nuclear weapons.

The two sides also exchanged views on Bosnia-Herzegovina. They were of the view that the UN Security Council should set a basis for an overall settlement of the conflict consistent with the Vance-Owen peace plan. Akram Zaki also briefed the French secretary general on Pakistani efforts to establish peace in Afghanistan and said these efforts will continue.

Sri Lanka

President Briefs Diplomats on Economic Policies

BK0106114893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] President D.B. Wijetunge yesterday told Colombo's diplomatic community that the government is hoping to reduce its dependence on foreign aid. He added that sooner or later the country will replace aid with trade. He also invited them to become partners in Sri Lanka's development and future prosperity.

The president made this request when he addressed the heads of foreign missions in Sri Lanka at a luncheon hosted by him in Colombo yesterday. The president said that the basis of our foreign policy is friendship and cooperation with all countries in the common interest of securing international peace, achieving goodwill among nations, and ensuring the prosperity of all people. He said that Sri Lanka regarded all countries and people as friends. Sri Lanka has embarked on an economic policy of (?export-based) growth. This is the correct path to bring meaningful employment and prosperity to Sri Lankans. Sri Lanka's new manufactured industrial products have proved to be of high quality and competitive in price. Sri Lanka's garments exports to United States alone last year reached the figure of $850 million. The president said that this was almost the level of the foreign aid that the country normally looks forward to from the global community. He added that when exports grow Sri Lanka will have all the resources she needs to pay for her essential imports.

The government hopes to achieve growth with equity by preserving the democratic system. The president said that the government wants to bring about peace throughout the island. Once peace has been restored, Sri Lanka will solicit support of foreign countries in the massive task of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

LTTE Attacks Military Checkpoint in North

BK3105123893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 31 (AFP)—Tamil Tiger guerillas launched Monday [31 May] a rocket attack against a military checkpost in northern Sri Lanka, killing at least 16 people and losing five of their own men, officials said.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fired mortar bombs and rockets at the outpost in the Vavuniya District as civilians crossed rebel lines to enter the government-controlled Vavuniya town, witnesses said.

A spokesman for the rival People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) said they lost three cadres and claimed killing at least five LTTE guerillas and capturing two Tiger rebels alive.

"They took cover behind civilians to fire B-7 rocket launchers and mortar bombs. We have recovered the bodies of 10 civilians so far," the PLOTE spokesman said, adding that military reinforcements had been rushed into the area.

"The fighting has died down and the town is quiet. The army and the police have stepped up randoms checks but the town is quiet," a resident in Vavuniya, 254 kilometers (160 miles) north of here, said by telephone.

It was the worst outbreak of violence at the checkpost this year, although there had been sporadic minor skirmishes in the area, which serves as a de facto frontier post for the military as well as the Tigers.

The army confirmed that one soldier was killed in the shooting while doctors at the main hospital in Vavuniya said 12 bodies of civilians, including those of three women, were brought there after the morning battle.

Shrapnel injuries sent 31 Tamil civilians, including two children, to hospital, but a military spokesman said several critically wounded civilians were airlifted to a better-equipped hospital further south at Anuradhapura.

Civilians travelling to LTTE-held territories north or going south to government-controlled regions must go through the Thandikulam checkpost, manned by security forces together with the PLOTE.

The PLOTE has been cooperating with the government in its drive against the LTTE, which is battling for an independent Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka's embattled northeast, where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

Nine Civilians Killed

BK0106122493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Nine civilians were among 27 killed during an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attack on joint security forces and PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] screening point ahead of the forward defense line at Nochchimoddai in the Vavuniya District yesterday.

Giving details, the Joint Operations Command [JOC] spokesman told LANKAPUVATH that 14 LTTE terrorists, five of whose bodies have been recovered, nine civilians, three PLOTE members, and one soldier had been killed in the incident which occurred at 0830 a.m. Twenty-two civilians, one PLOTE member, a soldier were wounded. The number of LTTE wounded are not yet known.

The JOC spokesman said that following a daily routine, the PLOTE cadres and two soldiers had been screening civilians some distance ahead of the security forces forward defense line at Nochchimoddai. Screening point was between the security forces check point and the LTTE check point. A group clad in civilian clothes had arrived from the LTTE checkpoint when suddenly about 50 to 60 LTTE terrorists who had mingled with the civilians had pulled out guns and opened fire at the soldiers and PLOTE members manning the screening point.

Special Police Unit To Track Down LTTE Assassins

BK2905120293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Police have set up a new anti-LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] unit with headquarters in Negombo following intelligence reports of an LTTE plan to assassinate certain leading politicians and high-ranking government officials. The special unit is manned by 40 handpicked police officers from stations in the Colombo and Gampaha districts. Several senior police officers have also been posted to the new unit. The unit is empowered to track down and arrest LTTE suspects in any area. The police source said yesterday that they had received intelligence reports that LTTE activists had infiltrated the city and that bomb and firearm experts are believed to be among them.